

Arabian Tales
NUTREBIAN TALES, *R*

Or the STRANGE and SURPRISING
A D V E N T U R E S
O F A
CAPTIVE QUEEN,
Wonderful Deliverance of her Children;
Curious METAMORPHOSIS of a
MONKEY, BUTTERFLY, &c.
Anecdotes of a CONVENT, History of the Prince
de BARNAVILLE and the COUNT.
The whole Interspersed with many entertaining
AMOURS and Secret HISTORIES.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

V O L I.

L O N D O N :

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Humbly Addressed

To the Right Honourable

WILLIAM BENN, Esq;

Lord Mayor of the City of *London*,
the worthy Aldermen, good Citizens,
and every honest freeborn *Englishman*,
who vouchsafes to favour the Pains,
Cost, and Labour I have been at,
in introducing this Piece into a Sort of *English*.

AS nothing is more natural, than to commend what one wants to dispose of, I suppose the Reader expects I should here write, (I think they call it a Panegyric) on each Particular, with the extraordinary Perfections of the whole, to invite them to buy and read it. But as throughout this Writing, the Author expresses a great Aversion to Lying, Falsehood, and Deceit, I have edified so much

DEDICATION.

much as to own, with great Simplicity, I bought the Copy where a Bookseller died, or broke (I cannot say which.) And tho' the Preface mentions in it native Language, it was in that Country esteemed as much as our learned Wits do Mr. Pope's Homer; yet what between the hard Words, and those ill writ, I had a deal of Trouble in travelling up and down many a Pair of Stairs after Authors, to explain the Meaning to the Compositor, who thinks it the oddest Thing that ever was done into English. God send this polite Age's Genius, may not have the least Similitude with his, who would doubtless prefer the Seven Wise Masters to it; not but there is in that a Story of a prudent old Husband, who managed a headstrong, perverse, gay, young Wife; which if it was translated into the soft, tender, rapturous Strain of certain Authors, it would doubtless be mighty taking; not but in this there is a Beau, a fashionable Filt, a fond Widow, and a young Maid of a good Fortune, who is in Love, she does not know why; a handsome Lady and a
fine

DEDICATION.

fine Dancer that saved some naughty Citizens who had enraged their King by Rebellion, with a pretty Story of their Gratitude in Remembrance of her Compassion to them.

And above all, there is a Hero that was a Nonsuch, who delivered his enslaved Country, reigned many Years happy, and was extremely beloved by his People, for the wise and fatherly care he took of them.

The native Greatness of Soul that appears in this heroick King so pleased me, I resolved to offer this Piece to Persons whose freeborn Nature, with a generous Virtue, and honest Integrity have, without the least Taint of selfish Lucre or Gain, directed all their Actions for the Good of their Friends, and Advantage of their Neighbours; and as the candid World must own this renowned City abounds with many, my Wishes are, they may every Year be blessed with those, who, like your Lordship, love their country, and study the Happiness and Welfare

DEDICATION.

*fare of all under their Care, besides your
many private and public Perfections, so
well known and revered by all honest well-
meaning Persons. I am, with great
Respect,*

Your Lordship's

Most Humble,

And most Obedient Servant,

The PROPRIETOR.



P R E F A C E.

F R A N C I S A L V A R E S, *after he had travelled through several parts of Asia, India, and Africa, resided many years in Ethiopia ; in which space of time he not only made himself master of their language, but was fully informed of their laws, customs, histories, and manners.*

He returned to his native country in the year 1533, and brought a letter from the emperor of Ethiopia to Pope Clement VII. and some other manuscripts, which he translated into Italian ; among which the following piece was one. In his preface he affirms it was in such esteem amongst

P R E F A C E.

amongst the Albassines, that most families of distinction had it in their houses; he further adds, that he had seen some handsome, clean-limb'd dogs, which the natives averred were the offspring of that bitch, by whom a princess was providentially preserved (as in this history is related,) and who, in process of time, became consort to one of their emperors; and that the Nutrebian's or Nubian's monarch in all their army, banners and ensigns of honour, bore a double-winged butterfly.

Alvares is full of encomiums on this book, letting the reader understand he takes it to be a mixture of history and fable; that being very much the manner of all the writings in those parts: and says, as he esteemed it a very proper instruction for youth, because in it were vices of all kinds exploded in their proper colours, and, on the other hand, virtue appeared in so amiable a light, as even to charm and influence the most dissolute, of which we have had a proof; for some who have read this manuscript, of the
very

P R E F A C E.

very gayest fashionable turn, have shewn a pleasure, far beyond expectation, at the characters here introduced.

He further adds a long discourse, to convince the reader, that the apparition of the butterfly was only an invention to set off the story of Iram's distress, alluding to her great reliance on Divine Providence. Nevertheless, hoping no one would be so weak as to imagine he would inculcate the Pythagorean doctrine by Papaglia's account of his various transformations after death, as a punishment for crimes committed in life; believing it was done only to introduce stories of different parts of the world; in the Ethiopian language, many of the remarks being so just, he judged the author a person of learning who had travelled, and at last made his residence there, and like another Homer, between history and fable, had described the manners and transactions of many persons, nations, and kings.

Papaglia, in his account of himself, is made to talk in the stile of a modern polite gen-

P R E F A C E.

Gentleman; the rest as near as possible to the original.

What it may have lost by passing thro' two translations is impossible to judge of; if it has retained any of that extraordinary spirit Don Alvares so much admired, and should happen to please English readers, I hope an abler pen will oblige the publick with another translation.



M E M O I R S



MEMOIRS OF THE NUTREBIAN COURT. BOOK I.



MAILLAN having slain the unfortunate *Fathrep Hazem* on the plains of *Netob*, the metropolis city *Nodnou* immediately opening the gates to him, he entered in triumph; and no sooner had he reached the palace, but he slew *Hazem's* children, and sent his queen to the castle of *Simar*, which is washed by the River bearing the same name.

Six hours she remained in a profound silence, her eyes fixed on the ground, when the day appearing, she arose, and opening the window, and casting her eyes beyond

the stream, on the adjacent land, with a shriek, cried out, Ah! see the fatal plain of *Neiob*, where *Jathrep*, and forty thousand loyal subjects breathed their last, horses and mangled bodies lay promiscuously together. Oh! added she, that my eyes might strain their akeing balls to find my murdered lord, and in that view unhappy I expire!

Then folding her arms, she began to reel, which her two ladies (who attended) perceiving, they run to her, and gently supported her to her *Sofa*, where she continued some time in silence, (interrupted by sighs alone) suddenly she rose, and returning to the window, looking up to the sun; Thou glorious planet, said she, thou gladdens all nature with thy radiant beams, but me; the refreshed labourer, blessing thy returning light, assumes his wonted toil; the joyous birds clap their wings, and in grateful songs proclaim thy near approach; whose diffusive rays have quite effaced night's dreary mantle: it is I alone, hard fate is mine! to see thee as my enemy, darting resplendent lustre on that spot, whence sprang my pungent woes: but, alas! undistinguishing thou illuminates all parts alike; it is *Maillan's* fiend-like malice thus to deprive me of all other prospects, but that of *Neiob's* fatal plain, lest I should cease a moment to bewail my losses: but oh, *Maillan* (continued

nued that afflicted lady) there wanted not this to keep my griefs awake: remembrance is a tyrant like thy self: my ears for ever will retain the horrid sound of our *rebellious subjects*, ushering thee stained with thy sovereign's blood.

Before my eyes yet glare the *bloody daggers*, with which he entered the royal chamber, and with the horror of his turbid aspect, transpierced my soul. Oh, added she, can words express my agonies, when the tyrant seized my little *Hazem*, my first-born, and dashed him against the marble pillars! I saw his quivering limbs, and from his panting bosom his angel's breath quit its sweet frame. Here lifting up her eyes, her passion increasing, she said, * You stones that were stained with such innocent blood, bear witness against him; let not the guilt depart from him, nor from his race. You both know, said she, turning to her women, in my folded arms, close to my bosom, I strove to save my infant, but even there his dagger pierced him through; would it had reached my heart: what then became of me, who was bereft of sense, you can best inform me.

The queen looking on them, as if she expected they should answer her, *Sinza*,

B 2

the

* This curse has a little of the spirit of the 137th psalm.

the eldest of the two ladies that were with her, * falling at her feet, and having kissed them three times, said, unhappy queen, perhaps if you permit your faithful slave to speak what I shall say, it may in some degree moderate the excess of your sorrow. Of the three hundred that attended thy person, only *Hetbazele* and I chose to follow to this place our afflicted mistress; for when the tyrant perceived the blood to flow from the wound he gave you in your endeavours to save your infant son, he then commanded you should be carried to this castle, with care to be taken of you: On the dressing of your wound, your senses returned; but we were too much astonished, and knew the first shock of your grief was too severe to admit of mitigation. In those silent moments, when sorrow bent our eyes to the earth, I reflected on all the horrid scenes transacted yesterday. I do think the divine wrath has certainly poured on the house of *Hazem* the bitter cup of his vengeance, even to the dregs: and that the lovely *Iram*, the fragrant rose of *Mucongosa*,

* The author takes notice, in those parts when a subject asked any favour of the king, he prostrates himself three times at his feet; but *Sinza* doing it now, was to let the queen see she would continue the same duty and respect, as in her former grandeur was paid to her.

gosa, and the most radiant diamond that ever adorned the *Nutrebian* Throne, is still preserved, and bears within her an unborn *Hazem*, that may revenge his father's house, and dash against the marble pillars the blood of *Maillan*. Therefore, take courage, dearest lady, moderate (for your *infant's sake*) your sorrows.

No, answered *Iram*, I have no hope; knowest thou not why I am sent here? but as soon as that helpless *infant* shall breathe this terrestrial air, *Maillan*, that dragon of darkness, watches to devour it. Heaven, answered *Sinza*, may permit us to find some way to save it.

Iram, making no answer to her last words, rose again, and looking towards the plains of *Neiob*, folding her arms, said, O *father Hazem*! if thy departed spirit is yet permitted to bend before the throne of mercy, who only knows and judges the thoughts and ways of us mortals; where thy *innocency*, and *Maillan's* treachery will be tried: there where angels, and celestial spirits, record all thy wrongs, the sufferings of thyself and offspring; join, unite, my royal lord, with your murdered sons, to plead, to intreat for me, your wretched relict, and this unborn *infant*; that every celestial and terrestrial being, may know

tho' heaven afflict the just, he leaves a hope in their seed.

After the queen had finished this prayer, her grief was something asswaged; and turning her head toward the outside of the wall, she saw a large black cobweb, that had overspread a good part of it that was next her, and had intangled in her web a butterfly, of various colours, which was fluttering and beating his wings to get loose; she stretching out her hand, and releasing the fly, said, thou pretty insect, I have delivered thee from thy potent enemy; oh! continued she, that the superior power would deliver me from the fatal web *Maillan* has spread to the destruction of me and mine! *Sinza* taking notice, after the fly had escaped, it was resting and refreshing itself on some flowers that were in a jar, said, I shall esteem this a happy omen. The Power that forms both us and

Alvares takes notice how natural it was for persons in such severe affliction, to be catching at every little trifle, and applying it to a lucky omen. Ancient histories are full of them; and in the history of *Scotland* there is mentioned, how one of their kings, after he had lost six battles, being hid in a poor cabin, where sitting pensive, he saw a spider weaving its web, which six times broke, but the seventh accomplished its work; which that king taking for a good omen, he again got together an army, and by the success

and that *butterfly*, may, by causes that to us appear as trivial and as accidental as your freeing this insect, save your unborn infant. *Iram*, a few moments viewing the *fly*, who stretched his wings as if he was delighted with the flowers, said, I cannot help thinking this insect has a sensible pleasure for its deliverance.

A soft scratching at the anti-chamber-door interrupted them, and they imagining some message was sent from the tyrant, *Iram* threw herself on her sofa, and *Helbazele* who went out, returning, acquainted the queen, *Niphlodoge* had, by the governor of the castle, sent to enquire how her majesty did, and to know her commands.

To this message the queen said, does *Niphlodoge* only send? Are we so fallen, that he attends not on us in person? Ah! *Sinza*, pursued that disconsolate lady, to what insults are we destined! that tyrant-fiend, that with his numberless whips, is momentarily lashing the unfortunate! Here she paused a little, and then proceeded to say, After yesterday's slaughters, what commands can I have! but, go, added she, to *Sinza*, and send what message thy wisdom, and heaven, shall best direct.

B 4

Sinza

success of the seventh battle, established himself on the kingdom.

Sinza considered they wanted some necessaries, and bid *Helbazele* try if she could get any intelligence : after she had stayed some time, she returned with a dejected air ; *Sinza* perceiving it, laid her finger on her mouth, to let her see she would not have her acquaint the queen with it. But that lady, turning her lovely eyes on *Helbazele*, said, Speak, say, what horrid things have been transacted ? *Helbazele* remaining silent, with her eyes fixed on the ground, the queen said to her, go to the window, and view yonder plain ; thrice this day I have seen it, and yet still I live ; and after this, no insult, no kind of misery can touch me. *Sinza* again falling at her feet, said, that, that, alas ! has been too severe to admit of any addition ; therefore be pleased to permit *Helbazele* only to impart what she has heard to me ; and what is convenient you should be made acquainted with, your faithful *Sinza* shall let you know, tho' the anguish I shall suffer while I am relating it, shall cause me to die at your feet.

Do with me as you will, replied *Iram*, and heaven recompence thee equal to thy excellent merit. My afflictions, continued she, are too severe to express the sense I have of you and *Helbazele's* faithful compassion ; out of three hundred, you two only have chose to follow and serve your

our ruined mistress. Ill-guided choice ! fatal error ! others I have honoured, and preferred above you. Finishing these words she laid her head down, washing her pillow with her tears.

Sinza withdrew with *Hetbazele*, who told her, she had from the governor been informed, that all *Jathrep's* friends (which had not by flight saved themselves) were put to death : that at the palace-gate was set up, in capital letters, thirty-six accusations writ in blood, which the people had no sooner read, but they tore down *Jathrep's* banners, blotted out his arms, and broke his images. And what, cried *Sinza*, were the nature of these accusations ? W

Hetbazele replied, the governor had told her, the first crime *Jathrep* was charged with, was poisoning his father *Jam Hazem* ; as also that he had by magic art killed three of his chief nobles ; and that *Jathrep* intended, with the same magical charm, to murder all his own subjects in less than forty hours, and transplant *Egyptians* in their place. Alas ! cried *Sinza*, no fond father ever loved his own children better than *Jathrep* did his people : but proceed, said *Sinza*, and let us hear the rest. *Hetbazele* then went on, and said, *Maillan* has promised to prove the king had joined in league with the *Egyptians* ; that those two powers had

had formed a design to dethrone *Pretejan*. Ah, said *Sinza*, that, that alone, is the * *Bruteian* shock that has destroyed our master.

Hetbazele proceeded to acquaint her with many other strange and absurd articles, which concluded with a long account of *Fatbrep's* tyrannic intentions to oppress the *Nutrebians* to that degree, they were to be taxed for lighting their pipes by the sun, or their making use of any of the elements; he having determined, as the accusation said, to make his people know he was lord of all the earth they trod on, and the air they breathed, from *Nart* to *Redmorn*.

What horrid nonsense is all this! cried *Sinza*; sure falsehood's baleful prince has possessed all *Maillan's* party, thus to poison the minds of the ignorant people with such preposterous idle stories; that reason, or sense, must blush at the follies of those that can hear, or give the least credit to them.

Hush,

* The stab that *Brutus* gave *Cæsar* in the senate-house, was thought the only one that was mortal amongst the many he received.

† Every accusation here mentioned, in the track of this history is either wrongly represented, or false inventions of *Maillan* and his party; in the original are every article set down at large, but I thought it too voluminous and flat to please the reader.

Hush, cried *Hetbazele*, he is proclaimed *King*. *King*! said *Sinza*, folding her arms; and must the royal crown of the *Hazems* encircle the brow of that traitor? Can no less vengeance satisfy divine wrath? heaven permits, and surely the prince of darkness thus is to reward him, to continue yet longer the plagues and miseries which yet are more fully to punish the *Nutrebians* disloyalty. Here *Sinza* paused a few moments, and then began to ask *Hetbazele* whether the governor belonged to *Mailan*, or was one of those *Nutrebians* that exults over the ruins of their sovereign, as well as to assist in tormenting, and keeping in bondage their royal mistress.

He is, replied *Hetbazele*, a *Nutrebian*; seems greatly to lament the *queen*; and appears doubtful concerning the fate of the unborn *infants*. I further observed, pursued she, when he mentioned the king's banners and arms being defaced, his voice faltered: but, continued *Hetbazele*, what answer must be sent to *Nipbladoge*, who by the manner of his message, inclines me to hope he may perhaps assist and serve the *queen*?

Sinza, after having some time remained thoughtful, said, it is plain, heaven is against the house of *Hazem*, or the people would not be thus infatuated to their own destruction;

destruction; so that now all our care must be to try to moderate *Iram's* afflictions, and use every means towards the preserving her child.

After she had said this, she desired *Hetbazele* to bid the governor to say to *Niphodoge*, that their afflicted mistress, astonished with her woes, yielded to despair! but, added she, bid him to say, that I *Sinza* desire him to reflect, what a change yesterday's light brought with his fiery rays; and that after such turns of fate, what head can rest fearless on downy pillows? and, added she, tell him, if with their loyalty, pity has not forsaken every *Nutrebian*, beg him to use his utmost skill to soften *Masilan*, to spare the queen, and her royal infant. *Hetbazele* went, and delivered *Sinza's* message; nine days passed without their hearing a word. The queen's astonishment and despair hourly increased; *Sinza* too dreads this silence, as the knell that tolls the infant's death. All that *Iram* in this space of time took the least notice of, was the butterfly, which had remained five days with them, flying from flower to flower, resting on a rose, or jessamine, which lay sometimes on the queen's lap. On the sixth day it was missing, which loss *Iram* regretted beyond what such a trifle deserved.

On

On the ninth evening, she being in her closet retired, after she had offered up her afflicted oraisons, she saw stand before her a very surprizing figure: it appeared to be of too diminutive a size for the general proportion of mankind; yet in many parts very much resembled a human form; it standing erect on the thighs, legs, and feet, seeming to be something proportioned like a man, had not there seemed to grow under his heels, two horns above four inches high, that made him stand altogether on his toes; on his head grew abundance of shining flax, that fell down in large rings, and covered his shoulders, which were bespattered with a fine sort of meal; in the midst of which, where the face should be, was a long white visage, a narrow, high-ridged nose, between two deep sunk sky-coloured eyes: as to the rest of the form, it was composed of such various things, as bits of ribbons, linnen, silk, gold, and silver, hanging and shaped in such an odd way, it was impossible for her to judge whether he was a man, or monster of amphibious kind. *

Long

* The reader is here desired to reflect *Iram's* fright, and contemptible thought of the spirit's form is not so strange, she being an *Ethiopian*, who are all black: and tho' the *Pretejan*. race are not so by mixing

Long she remained not in this suspense before she heard a shrill voice say, Fear not *Iram*, I was once mortal, and clothed like you with human flesh; but for offences done in that state, have suffered many transmigrations through *animals*, *birds*, and *insects*; and should have suffered much more, had not your fair hands delivered the *butterfly* from the *spider's* ensnaring web: ah, said the amazed *Iram*, is it possible, that you can be that *pretty fly*? I was, replied the phantom, that *very fly*: and how, or which way, came you to be such, or what do you now represent? added the affrighted queen.

I now, answered the *butterfly*, appear in the form I first existed in, and am permitted to offer you all the thanks and services a mean spirit can do you, obedient to other spirits more mighty, who obey others still greater and more powerful, who, in order, and

mixing in marriage with other nations, it is easy to believe the heat of that country causes the fairest to be of a very brown cast, and in general all have black curled hair, like wool, and their dress being loose flowing garments, it would not be improbable, but one of our nicest drest beaux that might attract the eyes of all the ladies in a full circle, might happen to fright a person so entirely a stranger to our polite notion of dress, and cause them to doubt of what species he might be.

and degrees, rise higher, to infinity ; all adoring and obeying the great Supreme.

Alas, cried *Iram*, what help, or what assistance can you give me ! Can you restore me *Jalbrep Hazem*, or my children's life ? chastise the tyrant, quell our rebellious subjects, burst these prison walls, and set me in my brother's territories ? What you have mentioned, replied the spirit, is only in the power of the Supreme Being ; and this passion has little of that resignation, with which, a few moments past, you humbled yourself before the throne of mercy ; for, pursued the phantom or *fly*, by subduing your griefs, when oppressed with such mighty affliction, you disarm the divine wrath ; patience conquers the severest ills, and will hereafter gain you unutterable joys.

Ah, cried *Iram*, when you was mortal, had you known or felt the least part of those piercing woes that have entered my soul, you would have found how very hard, nay, almost impossible, it would have been to have supported them : but I will, continued she, endeavour to resign every thing, even my last, my only remaining hope, the unborn infant ; tho' with fervent supplications, I would implore the Divine Goodness to spare me that.

Arm your mind, said the phantom, by
fasting

fasting and prayer, without the least repining, to offer up that, and all things, to the will of heaven. In a few days I will let you know what *may be permitted me farther to unfold to you.* The form vanished, and the queen went to her ladies, acquainting them with all that had passed between her and the phantom. Amazed at her relation, they feared her misfortunes had influenced her senses. But *Sinza*, who dearly loved her mistress, hoping if she indulged her in this fancy, it might help to moderate her affliction, said nought to dissuade, or cause her to doubt, the vision of the *butterfly*.

That night the queen a little forgot her sorrows in a sweet and refreshing sleep; when early the next morning *Hetbazele*, hearing the trampling of feet, and the sound of voices, went out to the anti-chamber where she saw the women, and one in the habit of a midwife. On enquiring what had brought them there, she was answered by the midwife, that herself and those women were ordered by *Maillan* to attend and assist the queen till the time of her delivery. *Hetbazele* turned pale, imagining the fatal errand the usurper had sent them upon; but disguising her fears, she asked the midwife which was to be the nurse; who, with her eyes cast to the ground

ground, answered, I am, by *Mailan*, commanded, on pain of death, as soon as the queen is delivered, to carry the child to the king.

At these words *Hetbazele* gave a shriek; and *Sinza* entering, heard repeated what had been said to *Hetbazele*: *Iram's* attentive ears too caught the fatal sound; and before the lady could return to her, on the floor was tearing her robes, and striking herself. *Sinza* falling at her feet, said, did not *Iram* last night resolve, by prayer and fasting, to subdue every passion, conquer all the yearnings of nature, and patiently resign this last hope? *Sinza* and *Hetbazele*, added she, will join with you, nor food, nor comfort will we know, till the third setting sun has sunk into the west.

Then be it so, answered *Iram*, for me, I must, I will resign: *Jatbrep* and his three children shall be one united sacrifice; he, with those unspotted innocents, will surely plead for me his forlorn widow, and of mothers the most wretched.

As *Sinza* had proposed, they ceased not a moment their earnest supplications; nought but water entered their lips till after the third returning sun was set; then quite spent, they took a proper repast; and *Iram* with looks composed said, the struggle has been severe; hopes and fears each moment

succeeding one another, turn to distraction the resolution I have strove to confirm myself in, to arm me against the bitter moment : but when, added she, that is past, I hope I shall forget I was *Fathrep Hazem's* queen, and mother of such lovely children ; more I shall never have for *Mailan*, or any other *Mailan*, to destroy. *Sinza*, seeing her so well disposed, said nought to awaken hope.

Seven days passed, the queen every moment struggling between affection, nature, and resignation ; she still strove to gain the conquest over every wish, every flattering hope. On the eighth day, as usual, after supper, she retiring to her closet, the same form appeared as before : as soon as she saw it, whatever her imagined resignation might be, she trembled for fear he should pronounce the infant's death ; when he said to her, *Iram*, * thou bearest within thy womb two children, a son and daughter ; the divine wrath being mitigated so far, the sword of unnatural death shall no more reach the seed of *Hazem* ; yet still they will struggle with severe hardships, distresses, and dangers. Alas, cried *Iram*, must *Mailan's* diabolical arts still prevail to make my children also miserable ? The black

* The future part of this history makes every particular to happen as the spirit foretels.

black angel of falsehood is suffered, answered the *butterfly*, to assist the usurper to beguile the infatuated people, till *Maillan* and their crimes shall be ripe for vengeance. You must, added he, in this castle, patient lady, long long remain, suffering a tedious imprisonment; and both thy son and daughter when arrived to riper years, here in this place too shall be confined, each moment expecting death: he like the intangled lion shall rage, and she like the frightened dove, that trembling beats the wing; and thou, *Iram*, by a too eager curiosity to find thy son, shalt ensnare him into the tyrant's power, and again feel a mother's distress in the fears of losing her only son.

But now, pursued the phantom, listen and observe the means permitted to save these royal infants: *Niphlodoge*, who, of all the rebellious nobles, which betrayed and deserted their sovereign, is the only one that has the virtue to commiserate thy unhappy state; for lately when in council it was debated, what should be determined concerning thee, he alone urged reason to save thy life, though for ever to keep thee a close prisoner. *Maillan* being too sensible, that should he allow you to be sent to your brother, you might soon after, at the feet of the emperor, plead your cause, and there discover all *Hazem's* wrongs, with
that

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* The future part of this history makes every particular to happen as the spirit foretels.

black angel of falsehood is suffered, answered the *butterfly*, to assist the usurper to beguile the infatuated people, till *Maillan* and their crimes shall be ripe for vengeance. You must, added he, in this castle, patient lady, long long remain, suffering a tedious imprisonment; and both thy son and daughter when arrived to riper years, here in this place too shall be confined, each moment expecting death: he like the intangled lion shall rage, and she like the frightened dove, that trembling beats the wing; and thou, *Iram*, by a too eager curiosity to find thy son, shalt ensnare him into the tyrant's power, and again feel a mother's distress in the fears of losing her only son.

But now, pursued the phantom, listen and observe the means permitted to save these royal infants: *Niphlodoge*, who, of all the rebellious nobles, which betrayed and deserted their sovereign, is the only one that has the virtue to commiserate thy unhappy state; for lately when in council it was debated, what should be determined concerning thee, he alone urged reason to save thy life, though for ever to keep thee a close prisoner. *Maillan* being too sensible, that should he allow you to be sent to your brother, you might soon after, at the feet of the emperor, plead your cause, and there discover all *Hazem's* wrongs, with
that

that force unerring truth strikes, when opposed by falsehood's most artful invention, and draw on *Maillan* the vengeance of that mighty monarch, sovereign of seventy kings.

To *Niphlodoge* therefore send, requesting thou mayest have change of raiments, mourning weeds, thy books, music, and work-baskets : this will be willingly granted thee ; and as soon as thou hast thy working instruments, take that board on which is painted the picture of *Abraham* offering up his son, and do thou and thy two ladies, with thy best skill, weave a basket, and put this boarded picture in the bottom ; then make a dress for a new-born infant of gentle, but not royal rank ; with the utmost speed get it done : let a ring be put over the basket, and with a strong line that may hold the weight of it, put it into the ring ; gently let it down to the river, loosing one end of the line, and by the other draw it up softly, and heaven will be propitious to thy labour. *Sinza* must assist, while *Hetbazele* plays on the music to over-rule the sound of thy groans, and the infant's cries ; with haste let the child be dressed, and laid in the basket, for so young a traveller, he will have a long, watery voyage to go.

After this, when thy groans and thy
cries

cries shall cause *Maillan's* spies to awake, the midwife assisting, thou shalt be delivered of a daughter, which she must carry to the tyrant; yet she too shall be preserved; and after all thy sufferings, thou, by that excellent pair attended, shalt in triumph return to the palace of the royal *Hazems*; but till that happy, that propitious moment arrives, annually on the day thou deliveredst the *butterfly* from the invenomed spider's web, he will visit thee, and bring thee what news of thy children, and other comforts, are permitted him to impart to thee. And as a further confirmation of the certainty of what we have told, over the left brow of thy son, shall be the * marks of my two left wings, and in the right arm of thy daughter, shall be the body and right wings.

The *butterfly* vanishes, and *Iram* leaving her closet went to her ladies, and told all that had passed. Amazed at the relation they did not know whether they should esteem it fancy or a real vision; but *Sinza* hoping by the means the queen had described, there was a sort of probability to save the child, of the truth of this vision, she said,
we

* These marks which the spirit mentions, the right wings being placed on the daughter, signified she would have a more exalted fortune than her brother, as the end shews.

we shall be convinced by the promised marks, and the two children which she said she was in hopes were to recompence for those *Maillan* had destroyed ; therefore she perswades her mistress speedily to send to *Nipblodoge*, which *Iram* accordingly did in the following manner :

Queen Iram to Nipblodoge, the first, the noblest subject of Nutrebia.

‘ **O** *Nipblodoge*, when *Fathrep Hazem*
 ‘ sent thee to request * *Iram* to be
 ‘ his espoused wife, of her warlike
 ‘ father, did he not decline the proposal,
 ‘ being unwilling to give his daughter
 ‘ to the monarch of so turbulent a peo-
 ‘ ple ? And did not thou then prostrate
 ‘ thyself three times at the foot of our fa-
 ‘ ther’s throne, saying, thou wished and
 ‘ desired to expire on that spot, rather than
 ‘ return to thy royal master without *Iram* :
 ‘ adding, *Fathrep* was so charmed with
 ‘ her image, he had placed it on the right
 ‘ hand of his sofa, perpetually gazing on
 ‘ it, and had often declared he could know
 ‘ no

* This letter is done as near as possible to the original : her speaking of herself in the third person, is a grandeur of stile very much esteemed by all great persons in those parts.

‘ no happiness until he was blessed with the
 ‘ possession of the original.

‘ Thy request was granted thee, and
 ‘ nine weeks *Iram* entertained thee in royal
 ‘ fashion, sending thee each rising sun a
 ‘ new garment, adorned befitting thy great
 ‘ office ; and every one of thy attendants
 ‘ change of raiments, according to their
 ‘ degree.

‘ And when *Iram*’s royal father put
 ‘ her in thy possession for thy master, thou
 ‘ didst then swear on the holy book and sa-
 ‘ cred spear, if death, or aught else befel *Ja-
 ‘ tbrep*, thou wouldst return her safe back
 ‘ again to either her father, or brother,
 ‘ with all her rich gifts, her portion, and
 ‘ one million of saphies of gold for her
 ‘ dower.

‘ Thou also knowest *Iram*’s brother
 ‘ brought her to the borders of thy master’s
 ‘ dominions, and that there thou, doing
 ‘ homage to her as thy sovereign’s queen,
 ‘ received her from her brother, attended
 ‘ by fifty virgins, and twenty ladies of high
 ‘ race, one hundred camels loaded with
 ‘ the richest things this earth produces, with
 ‘ presents for her * espoused lord, besides
 ‘ change

* Espoused wife is a term for the chief, who is
 treated as mistress of the rest. *Pretejan* is allowed
 six, which if he should not have children by the
 lady

‘ change of garments, set with gems, be-
 ‘ fitting her royal state, for every different
 ‘ day the sun rose or set throughout the
 ‘ circling year.

‘ In a few days thou broughtest her to
 ‘ the great temple, where thy master wait-
 ‘ ed impatient to receive her from thy
 ‘ hands : thou also knowest, when the so-
 ‘ lemnity was near ended, *Iram* awed with
 ‘ *Jathrep*’s great presence, love, and virgin
 ‘ fears, sunk down faint ; and that thy
 ‘ master, taking her in his arms, only as-
 ‘ sisted by thee, bore her to his castle :
 ‘ since that day *Jathrep* has honoured *Ni-
 ‘ phlodoge* with the highest preferment, say-
 ‘ ing, he knew, when thou wast advanced,
 ‘ *Iram* was pleased.

‘ This repetition is to bring to thy re-
 ‘ membrance that such things have been,
 ‘ tho’ now they are passed away : and the
 ‘ same *Iram* is a prisoner, without change
 ‘ of raiments ; and tho’ the most desolate
 ‘ of widows, without mourning weeds.
 ‘ She wanteth work-baskets, her books,
 ‘ and musical instruments.’

Hetbazele gave this writing to the gover-
 nor, to send to *Niphlodoge*.

The

lady he has made his choice, then he may again
 chuse another out of the remaining five.

The next morning all that *Iram* had mentioned was sent ; to which was added every thing befitting her royal state. On a cushion of crimson silk * was laid the velum that contained the following words from *Nipblodoge*, which in form were delivered to *Sinza* by two of his chief officers.

‘ Three times we prostrated on the
 ‘ floor before we would presume to
 ‘ view what *Iram*’s royal hands had touch-
 ‘ ed. All thy commands have and shall
 ‘ be obeyed, that lie in *Nipblodoge*’s power,
 ‘ who lives in hopes to see the day he shall
 ‘ restore thee, according to his vow to thy
 ‘ brother ; but till that happy hour ar-
 ‘ rives, let *Nipblodoge* know thy desires,
 ‘ and they shall be complied with.’

The queen, as soon as she had read it, letting it fall from her hands, said, These are only words ; he could, if he were so inclined, save our child. *Sinza* urged her at least to try him : but the queen answering her angrily, said, What, to be deceived, and betrayed, as my royal husband was ? No, continued she, we will trust none, but do as the *Papagly* has directed :

C

therefore

* When a letter or writing is sent by the *Asiatics* to a great person, it is folded on rich silk, according their degree. The *Turks* have the same way.

therefore, added she, let us to our work ; to which the ladies went with the utmost diligence.

The first thing they did was to examine the board on which the patriarch *Abraham* was represented, offering his son ; and having considered it, *Sinza* tried whether it would pass between the bars of the window ; and how pale did *Iram* look, when she saw the bars were too close set together for the board to go thro' ! but that fear was soon removed, for *Sinza*, in striving to get it between the bars, found one so loose, that she could take it out, and place it in again, so as to appear firm as the rest.

They soon made a neat basket, plated with strong wires, with a ring or handle to go over it ; the dress and all being compleated, as the queen was settling the bed and other things, there fell from her bosom a jewel ; on which she said to the ladies, This was the first present I asked, or received, from my loved lord, and it is esteemed a great curiosity ; for an *European* that travelled into these parts, drew these figures of him, and me, as you may see, said she, opening the case, and shewing them the pictures of herself and *Hazem* in miniature : often has he told me, continued the queen, he constantly kept it in his bosom till he gained me ; then pleased with

with his resemblance, which you see on the other side, I prevailed on him to let me have both. Inclosed thus in this jewel, here (added she, pointing to her breast,) have I kept it ever since : but as heaven has taken from me the dear original, and now that I must submit to the separation, if not the destruction of all that is left of him ; do you, *Sinza*, as soon as the child is born, lay it about his neck, none of my ladies, or any one knowing, I was ever mistress of any such thing, cannot inform *Maillan* it belonged to *Jathrep Hazem*, or *Iram* ; for when it is closed, none that are not acquainted with the springs can open it ; and perhaps hereafter it may be a means to discover who he belongs to. *Sinza* fixed it on a white ribbon, on which was worked in golden letters, the word *Almazador*.

When every thing was finished, she put a strong line into the ring, with as much balance as might be the weight of a new-born child, which letting down by the string, found it bore the water very well. When she had drawn it up, the queen on each side placing some pieces of gold, said, she did it to pay his nursing ; and all things being set in order, she lifting up her hands and eyes to heaven, said, Thou, great and merciful Being, only knowest

what have been my agonies, my struggles, my fears, and sometimes hopes, while we have been about this work, and that in all I have endeavoured a perfect submission to thy will ; and that if the last remains of the *Hazem's* must be lost, if *Maillan's* evil arts must prevail, to blot and efface his race, from this terrestrial globe, I resign him to his watery interment, I hope, with that patience I ought.

Before she had finished these words, the time of her labour was come ; and as the *butterfly* had foretold, in a few minutes she was delivered of a son, which *Sinza* taking, and having viewed, in transports tells her, a little man is born, and over his left brow are the wings of the *butterfly*.

The queen, amidst her agonies, is delighted ; and bids *Sinza* make haste to feed, dress, and send him on his watery voyage, for fear, added she, my intolerable pains force from me groans and screams that may prove his destruction. *Sinza*, with all the speed the affair required, obeys her ; and having got a short blessing from his mother, commits him to the basket, and then lets him down to the river.

In spite of *Iram's* distress, that lady's eyes were fixed on the basket, watching every motion, as it turned and wound about

bout with the stream, while the tide with smooth, tho' swift motion, carries it gently along, as if it knew the important charge committed to its care.

In the mean while, *Sinza* in soliloquy said, Go, thou little ark; nor will I fear thy safety, if the same Omnipotence protects thee, as did preserve thee first: not rocks rending, nor the whole frame of nature, torn by the bursting of the flood-gates of the deep; the raging of tempestuous winds, with the heavy rains which descended from above, could hurt or destroy *that*, guarded and guided by the same Goodness, which I hope will protect and save thee.

Thought, that in a few moments space can contract myriads of transactions, in those few moments employed *Sinza* with the reflections how from eight persons committed to the waves in the furious wreck the deluge made on the spacious globe was crowded; and that if *Almazador* should be blessed by the same protecting Power, (tho' now so abandoned by all,) perhaps from that deserted prince in that forlorn boat, a long race of great and virtuous kings. At the same time, fear intermixing at each motion of the water, she thinks she sees the basket sinking; and so intent was she on the object, that

Hetbazele spoke three or four times to her, before she saw the midwife and the women were entered *Iram's* chamber.

Soon after the midwife had entered, the queen was delivered of a daughter, which *Sinza* taking from her, the midwife in a low voice said to her, there has been another child born before we entered: but *Sinza* answering her sharply, said, What evil spirit hath possessed thee with such a thought, which may cause the destruction of the queen, and us unhappy ladies? Is it not enough, does not *Maillan*, like the dragon of darknefs, wait to devour this infant, but you must, with imaginary notions, put him on fresh slaughters and more outrageous murders? The midwife calmly answering her, said, This ill-fated infant is enough to save me: I want to know no more; and wherever it be, good angels protect it.

Sinza taking the little woman from the midwife, in a loud voice, said, It is a female child, *Hetbazele*; and she looking on her arms, soon spied the mark of the body and right wings of the *butterfly*.

The queen asked, before the midwife went, to see the child, which *Sinza* brought to her, and in a low voice, said, See, holding up the infant's arm to *Iram*, how plain the lesser and larger wings, with the various

rious colours, are impressed on her tender flesh. The queen having kissed the little lady, said, Go, thou helpless infant! perhaps, when *Maillan* knows thy sex, he may be touched with what he has yet been a stranger to, compassion: then giving her to *Sijza*, she turned to her rest.

The midwife took the infant from that lady, and, as she had been commanded by *Maillan*, she carried her to the royal palace.

End of the FIRST BOOK.

BOOK II.

From midnight the sun had advanced two hours towards the east, when according to the strict orders the tyrant had given, that as soon as the queen should be delivered, he should have notice: the nobleman that attended in his anti-chamber went to his bed-side, and informed him, the midwife had brought from *Iram* a daughter.

Not fully awake, and peevish, he bid the lord take the young princess, and throw her into a dog-kennel, charging him to

see her devoured. The nobleman, not over-pleased with his office, took the infant from the midwife, and going to the wall of the kennel, flung her over; at once to dash her in pieces; but, as himself afterwards owned, he heard the water splash, as when a large stone is thrown into it; a pond happening to be on that side next the wall.

This kennel had been built by *Jathrep Hazem* in the form of an amphitheatre, in which were kept above six hundred neat-limb'd, leopard-spotted, keen-scented, and swift-of-foot dogs.

Jathrep having been very fond of them, the expence of feeding them, and the buildings had been enlarged by that monarch; and it was one of the *nine and thirty articles* of accusation, put up against him on his palace-gate; with hypocritical insinuations, how many poor might have been supported with the cost which was thrown away on dogs: not but when *Maillon* had got possession of his master's dominions, he kept them at the same charge, with some of the old servants to take care of them.

Tho' it was the season that nature is at rest, yet the usurper's orders to have the royal infant destroyed with that inhuman barbarity, flew swift as lightning, through the palace, and the adjacent parts.

The

The chief keeper was awakened with the relation, and early as the light appeared went to the kennel : when he entered, he saw a favourite bitch of *Jathrep's* smelling and licking the child : struck with the sight, he stood viewing them, the tears running down his cheeks, he thus spoke to the creature, saying, How often have I seen my royal master play, feed, and stroak thee with his hands ! And thou sensible, grateful animal ! what a delightful, glorious return art thou making him ! Does not (continued he) the very looks of this creature, thus wishfully cast up at me, bid me consult, contrive, and join with her to save this infant ? Like thee, pursued the keeper, from my youth have I been supported and fed by the same generous prince ; and should I do nothing towards the preserving this child ? These hairs, which grew white in his service, would rise in judgment against me ; and that creature's example would cause me to sink with confusion to the grave at my black ingratitude : yes, proceeded he, *Nugmeg*, (that being the name *Jathrep* had given that animal) I will take thy nursery from thee : the creature fawned, and looked pleased, as if she understood him.

He took the little lady from her, and hiding her under his garment, as the short-

est way went through a large garden that belonged to the palace. He had not gone many paces, before he saw come running towards him, the espoused wife of *Dan-redno* ; he was sensible she had had too full a view of him, for him by any means to shun her ; and how great soever his perplexity might be, he waited her approach. As she drew near, her looks made him perceive she was extremely frightened. As soon as she was come up to him, she said, O *Emargb*, I do know thee to be very honest, and often have heard thou hast assisted the distressed ; therefore now help, and aid me, the most unfortunate of my sex, lest present death overtake me ! Oh, hide me, added she, in the deepest cavern of the earth, where never any *Nutrebian* may hear of me again.

Emargb troubled, for fear of being prevented or discovered in his design to save the princess, said, Lady, I beg you would be quick to let me know your commands : an affair of great importance requires my immediate attendance.

You know, said the wife of *Danredno*, the honour of suckling the king's children are only permitted to the most noble, and the next in degree to the throne ; but my lord having rendered *Maillan* extraordinary services in the changes that have raised the

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the *Gan* of *Sangree* to the crown, I miserable woman, tho' there were some between me and that dignity, was ten days ago advanced to that fatal honour, his wife being brought to bed of a daughter; and, pursued that lady, weeping, I fatally, oh, very fatally, fell into a deep sleep, and, see here, said she, I have overlaid the child; at the same time opening her robes, shewed the dead infant; telling him, as soon as she discovered the mischief, she snatched it up, intending to go to one of her servants to be concealed, till she could find means to escape from *Nutrebia*, and throw herself at the patriarch's feet.

She had not finished her last words, before the princess under *Emargb's* garment began to cry, *Igeban*, on hearing her, started, and believing it was the spirit of the dead infant, said, ah, do you hear how I am to be tormented and haunted to distraction by this injured infant!

Emargb, astonished at so unexpected a chance, said to her, Lady, be not terrified, nor any more afflict yourself; the Superior Being it is plain over-rules this affair, and by your hands has ordained the preservation of this sweet princess, of whom queen *Iram* was last night delivered. Therefore, added he, begin immediately to undress the dead, and clothe the living, and bear

her to the palace of her ancestors. Lady, proceeded he, I trust you with this secret in return for yours, and because I know, though espoused to *Danredno*, you secretly lament all he has done against *Jathrep Hazem*, and in your heart bear that spirit of loyalty inherent from your ancestors.

Igeban taking the princess in her arms and pressing her close to her bosom, said, no more will I bestow a thought on that dead thing; since, by this means, I am to have the happiness, not only to suckle, but be the preserver of the last remaining hope of the house of *Hazem*: oh, pursued she, that the unhappy queen did but know with what delight I shall take care to bring up, and fondle this little lady; and with what reluctance I undertook that office for the other!

In the midst of her caresses, *Emargb* puts her in mind to expedite the dressing the princess, for fear her attendance should happen to be alarmed at her long absence, and by that means a fatal discovery might be made. *Igeban* does as he advises, asking abundance of questions, which he answers as the time would permit. She presented him with a diamond of great value, bidding him meet her in that place in about sixteen days after, for them further to consult, and for him to be rewarded;
to

to which *Emargb* replied, If the princess passed undiscovered, all other recompence was mean, and below the pleasure and glory of having saved her.

As *Igeban* was returning to the palace, she met some of her women, who told her they were come to seek her, being surprized at her leaving her chamber so early without attendance, and taking the young princess with her ; on which *Igeban* told them with a cool unconcern, the excessive heat had made her faint for want of air, and for fear in her absence the child should want the breast, she took her with her.

Her women, without having the least suspicion, compliment and admire her tender care of the little lady. A day or two she kept the child close, and as little to be looked on as possible by those that had seen the other ; and when *Maillan's* lady wanted to see her, *Igeban* told her the child had had a fit, which had somewhat altered her ; not but with the recovery of her health her beauty was improved ; in short, the change passed on all.

Emargb went back to the kennel with the dead babe. *Nugmeg* came running to it, but no sooner had she * smelled to it,
bus

* *Don Alvarez* here makes a long discourse on the extraordinary smell of these dogs, and carries it so far.

but she left it, and went and fawned on the keeper, who, as he had promised, took care she should have a good breakfast.

In the mean while, the more keenly set, and fiercer sort of dogs made so good a meal on the dead infant's carcase, they mangled it to the very bones, so that only those of the feet, hands, and skull shewed what was left was of human kind. They had scarce ended their repast, when *Maillan*, attended by a train of *Nutrebian* nobles, entered the kennel.

Amongst these nobles, all who had been the subjects of that monarch, whose child they imagined to have been so cruelly murdered, were *Jathrep's* three favourites, *Nipblodoge*, *Danredno*, and *Guorbalem*, all which had been corrupted by the *Enargres* principles, of the nation of the *Libmacks*, who for ages past had been very seditious, and troublesome to their sovereigns.

These *Libmacks* were a fierce, conceited, rough, selfish people, hating *God's laws*, the king, and *patriarch*, ridiculing all forms of worship, or government, only their own, which was to adore an idol, called *Tenewock*, who they said had long since taught them, that all mankind were born free, and equal monarchs of the earth ;
that
far as to imagine this animal distinguished the child
of *Jathrep*.

that each man's reason was his deity ; that the stronger from nature, had a right to enslave the weaker ; the subtle and cunning to outwit, or beguile the rich ; and that the parent ought to have no authority over his children after a certain age ; and that then it would be no crime to insult them, or even pinch the nipple that suckled them in their infant and helpless state ; urging that birds and beasts had set mankind an example, who, when grown to strength, were strangers to paternal respects, or gratitude of any kind, or amorous love-fits ; that the large antled deers, and fiercest bulls reigned sovereigns of the field, till nature decayed, and then without repining, they yielded to the lustier, younger brood.

Danredno, tho' descended of a noble race, being bred up in the *Enargres* principles, and by nature a deep dissembler, changed into every *Promethean* form to deceive and betray ; and while he was undermining his sovereign, with the most submissive respects, as even paying him divine adoration, covering his pernicious advice with the pretences of ardent zeal, and strictest loyalty ; while underhand he reveals all his councils to *Maillan*, at the same time amongst the people spreads malicious falsehoods, against that unhappy prince,

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prince, besides grossly magnifying every fault, or wrong step.

Guorbalem was of gentle stock, but so decayed, he first was but one of the centinels that guarded the foot of the stairs that led to *Jathrep's* chamber: his graceful person invited the notice of that prince; and when acquainted, his address gained so on his master, he raised him to the degree of a noble: he had great skill in war affairs, and his deep discernment soon made him perceive *Maillan* underneath like a mole worked the king's destruction, and how his arts prevailed to estrange his subjects hearts; and being of the *Tavenock's* opinion, which taught that the stronger sort had a right to rule over the weaker, forgetting the mighty favours past, and being a stranger to gratitude, he and *Dan-redno* in the midst of the battle, turned their spears against the breast of their natural prince, while *Nipblodoge*, dubious, waited till he saw *Maillan* victorious, and then opened the city-gates to him.

Nipblodoge was wise, and by nature sincere, loving his king and country, but deceived by their arts, was perswaded by them *Jathrep* intended to join with the *Egyptians* against *Pretejan*. The hatred he bore to that nation, corrupted his loyalty, and tho' of the first rank amongst the

the *Nutrebians*, was now content to be one of *Maillan's* creatures.

As soon as *Danredno* saw the skull, bones, and mangled flesh of *Maillan's* dead devoured child, with a deriding smile he said, Is it possible that dogs should be so presuming to touch the flesh of *Hazem*, at whose name the mighty lion trembled ! though, continued he, I shall no more regret the vast sums have been expended on these dogs, since they have done the *Nutrebians* so signal a service, as to destroy the last remains of that race ; * how often, said *Guorbalem*, have I heard that haughty prince tell strange fables of the peculiar care Providence had of his, and *Pretejan's* ancestors, as if they two were only worthy Divine notice, who, pursued he, that has reason, and sees this sight, would regard such empty boasts ? *Niphtodage* who had stood thoughtful, looking on *Danredno*, and *Guorbalem*, said, It must be acknowledged these whelps are true worshippers of *Tenevock*, who, without instinct, or notion of the hand that feeds them, have torn to pieces the helpless remains of that race ; and then turning to *Maillan*, proceeded to

* This expression, as many more, shews he was descended from *Pretejan's* race, which all their historians boast are descended from *Solomon* and the queen of *Sheba*.

to say, This sight makes me tremble, to think what various miseries heaven in his wrath afflicts wretched mortals with.

Maillan, in spite of his own evil nature, esteeming *Nipblodoge* as the most virtuous and sincerest of these three nobles, answered, and with a smile said, *Nipblodoge's* gentle disposition is touched with compassion for fair *Iram's* share in this distress.

In the mean while, the honest huntsman, who, as his office obliged him, was there, and heard all their discourse, turning his eyes to the broad expanded skies, in soliloquy, said, Oh, heaven, how dost thou laugh at vain mortals' boasted reason, and imagined policies! Thou confoundest all their well-laid schemes, and disperses their most ambitious plots like chaff before the wind, and lets us see the contrivances of the wicked are daggers to their own souls, as *Maillan* thus exulting over his own mangled bowels, may one day prove.

The queen recovering health and strength by *Nipblodoge's* care, had her confinement made as agreeable as possible; a bath was built for her use on the top of the castle, supplied by water from the river by pipes, which run up the walls, by the best architect's skill curiously wrought, and on the flat of the roof, walks were laid out on each

each side, adorned with statues, flowers, plats, and small trees; twenty ladies were added to her attendants, besides *Sinza* and *Helbazele*, who sometimes helped her to amuse the hours, tho' she trusted none but those two ladies.

And thus a year rolled, serpent-like, round to the fatal day of her lord's destruction. On the succeeding night *Papaglia* appears, as he had promised: no sooner did the queen see him, but in tears she said, Where are the effects of your predictions? by your delusion, my son, I myself have consented to the destruction of. And does not the whole nation ring with the cruel manner of my daughter's being devoured?

Such sort of angry reproaches, answered *Papaglia*, are too often the reward of officious services: but did not you, said he, bear two children, and had they not the promised marks? why then do you doubt the rest? no, *Iram*, pursued the fly, it was not *Jabbrep Hazem's* daughter *Danredno* and the *Libmacks* exulted over: and in spite of his and their insults, the time, the hour will come, that he, that very *Danredno*, shall, by *Maillan's* command, be rack'd, and suffer exquisite torments, to discover, (tho' ignorant) how that princess was saved, whom not long since

since I saw rocked in a royal cradle,
 and will be educated worthy her birth.
 And where, (interrupted that lady,) or in
 what part of the river lie the bones of my
 son? if the fish have not long since de-
 voured them, as they report the dogs did
 my daughter. *Iram*, replied the *fly*, with
 a grave look, did not I greatly pity you,
 I would punish, by my silence, this man-
 ner of treatment, so like some of our *Eu-
 ropean* women's coquetry, who pretend
 most to doubt, when most they believe :
 but to proceed, and ease your heart, that
 beats with eager desires to know its fate.
 Four days have not passed, since I saw him
 strong, and in full health, tug hard at the
 nipple of a swarthy *Egyptian*. Ah, said
Iram, while you gladden my heart with
 thought he lives, how does it bleed to
 think what a strange education he will
 have, how different from his ancestors, or
 indeed all, but the meanest of his subjects !
 and though he should be undoubtedly pro-
 ved the son of *Jathrep*, that, that alone,
 will cause the people to reject, and despise
 him. Unhappy queen, said the spirit,
 you are now tormenting yourself with ima-
 ginary ills ; Heaven, who designs him
 for great purposes, has ordained he shall
 have an education proper for its ends ;
 his gentle nature will not be dissolved by
 flattery,

flattery, nor his great courage be intoxicated by pride, too frequently the fate of the great ! As early as his understanding is capable to receive, a worthy person will impress in his mind, a right idea of the Divine Goodness, exact truth, sincerity, and strict justice ; and as the peasants bred in ~~sooty~~ cottages, and low roofs. are taught humbly to submit to their lot, by hunger forced to labour for his bread, so he, from the knowledge how he was found, all things in the basket shewing it could belong to no mean person ; pride, so inherent to our natures, will work on his mind, create high ideas amidst his oppressions, and cause him to look with contempt on the vain arrogance of those puffed up by fortune's favours, and learn to distinguish and set a value only on true merit : oh, had I, added *Papaglia*, with a groan, had such an education, how different had been my fate ! what vices and misfortunes had I been a stranger to when mortal ! and what torments and anguish of soul, had I escaped in the future state ! So easily are we inclined to believe what we wish, said the queen, I now, methinks, believe all you have mentioned concerning my children as certain as oracles ; so, if you may discover, pray let me know, what were the offences that drew such strange
and

and various punishments on you. I have leave to reveal that, and much more, replied the *fly*, and this instant will begin to inform you as long as sixty minutes last.

History of the Count de L---

K Now, lovely queen, I was the eldest son of the count de L—. My father who was a younger brother till after he was forty, when he became possessed of the estate and dignity by his elder brother's death, married a young gentlewoman of inferior rank and fortune: tho' it is certain her handsome person gained him, he gravely on all occasions, declared his view in this marriage, was the hopes of children. I was born the first year, but my mother studying nothing else but dress, visiting, and being the very fine lady, left the care of my infant-education to the servants. You say, interrupted *Iram*, your mother studied to be the very fine lady? how then is it possible she let her son, that son who was to succeed to his father's honours and estate, to have the first impressions of his mind spoiled by ignorant and mean folks? their thoughts being employed to earn their living, seldom rise above the little arts that belong to their callings.

ings. And what more valuable character could your mother aim at, than by studying dress, to set off her personal charms, to appear amiable in the eyes of her husband; and as the bees from flowers select their sweets to carry to their hives, so, doubtless, that lady, from the variety she met with in her frequent visits, made herself the pleasing companion to your father, and instructed you in all that was praise-worthy. Ah, madam, said *Papaglia*, how strangely have you mistaken what in our country is esteemed *the very fine lady*! the most virtuous never dressing there to please their husbands; and only adorning themselves to outshine each other in public: as to the honey she brought to her family, it was generally, *How odiously such a one looked! How shockingly dressed!* with secret histories, no ways to the advantage of the persons mentioned, especially if they happened to be of my father's acquaintance, or he had any esteem for them.

As to me, sometimes in a morning she came into the nursery, staying about four minutes; and then, if I had been so lucky to please my attendants, some trifling story was told, how I had mimicked and made faces like such, or such a one, which were certainly persons they hated, and wanted to put out of favour: nay, so great a slave
was

was I to these creatures, I have told falsehoods of persons they did not like, to set my parents against them ; which they recompenced by indulging me in extravagant humours, which frequently tended to mischief.

Good God, said *Iram*, what scenes of vicious follies must such beginnings produce ! But did not your parent instruct you how wicked, how mean a crime the telling untruths were, and that the more conspicuous your rank, the more shamefully odious it was to sully the dignity of your family by such despicable vices. It is true, replied the *fly*, my young lord was often chid for telling fibs ; but then they were such as did not please ; and I had the cunning generally to distinguish between what were, or were not fit to tell. Pray, said *Iram*, what sort were those untruths, that went unreproved ? Many were so far from being reproved, I often met with caresses and encouragement ; as for example, when relations, or old acquaintances of my father visited, or made any stay at his house, the governess and I had inventions to make them both displeasing and ridiculous to the old peer ; as I remember once a young kinswoman, my mother thought he had too great an esteem for, just as my governess and I entered the room, hap-
pened

pened to drop something, which the valet being there, took up, the thing falling very near the bottom of her petticoat, she taught me to make a strange story of it to my papa ; but the count examining the young lady, when the truth was discovered, he was extremely angry with me, yet durst I not own who helped me to the invention : my mother's fondness indeed caused her to excuse me to my father, saying, it was easy for the child to make such a mistake ; and afterwards I heard her and the maid laughing together, she admiring the archness of her son's wit. Many indecent scenes passed amongst the servants, which I no more dared to make the least mention of than bite my tongue.

As I grew bigger, I was often with the men-servants, who daily let me into new scenes of low vices, with that excellent talent of ridiculing every one, with, and without reason ; no person visiting, or dining at the count's, but were mimicked, and all they did was acted over again by those larger sort of baboons : nor did the count himself escape them ; and I used often to divert mamma by walking after him and making grimaces, as if I had spectacles on ; and such an extraordinary spirit had the whole family that way, I have seen a maid come from assisting my mother, and fall into as natural a fit as ever she did, when she

wanted money of my papa, or he had vexed her.

This you may believe created in me sentiments as little respectful for my parents as their visitors.—Here *Papaglia* told the queen he must leave her; and accordingly, she looking up, found him vanished. She went to her two ladies, and related all he had acquainted her with; and at the same time told them she did not know what judgment to form of him, from the odd, and strange description he gave, both of his parents, family, and self.

B O O K III.

THE next year he comes on the appointed day (and nothing particular having happened) after her again enquiring about her children; to which he gave no other answer, than that they were both well: and she desires him to proceed in the history of himself; which he does in the following manner.

The Count de L——'s History continued.

AS I have before mentioned, in laughter, sneer, and ridicule, which I had learned from those about me, I discovered a quick-

a quickness of apprehension equal to the apes in the mimicry of their dams ; but I was a little stopped in my career, as I thought, of full happiness ; I hearing the count say to a friend of his, I was a sprightly boy, but did not mind my learning, and desired he would help him to a good preceptor ; which his friend did : this my nurse and the other servants had so terrified me with, that had a fiend from the infernal regions been set over me, I could not have had a greater dread of those furies, than I had of him.

He was indeed a grave, rigid, old man, and the tricks I played him made him very cross. I was soon delivered of him, he making my mother a grave lecture on her fondling and spoiling me, with some hints of her other conduct, which caused him to be dismissed. Then it was resolved to send me to a public school, where no partiality was to be shewn to the young lord. I was twelve years old when I went of this, said *Iram*, I am glad, for doubtless the example of so many gentlemen, bred up in quite different notions, must soon make you conscious of your follies, especially that odious one of telling untruths, and making mischief : for your histories have made me sensible what a detestable notion the *Europeans* have of that crime ; they challenging

fight duels, and stabbing the person that dares to charge them with a falsehood or lies. Here, lady, you are quite mistaken, said he; we are all certain each other are frequently entertaining their companions with discourses that have not the least probability of truth: but the challenges are only where any one is so ill bred, *as to tell another in an angry loud voice*, they lie; nor had any of my schoolfellows the least advantage of me, except some few, whose parents mean circumstances obliged them to be at the trouble of forming the minds of their own children.

I found the elder boys greater tyrants than my nurse, or our servants, and whatever they bid us deny, or say, we dared not do otherwise, tho' certain to be punished by the masters: such schools are commonwealths, that teach youth to know the world: the honest dunce-like simplicity of some, with the over-reaching genius of others; the sullen, the passionate, the proud, and fawning tempers, are all found out by each other.

As to me, who did not love my books, I became a prey to those that learned for me. I do not doubt, said the queen, but you all had various perversnesses, so incident to nature, especially in young minds uncorrected; but, in a christian country,
where

where your patriarch boasts himself to be the supreme and undoubted director of the revealed and right faith, it is not to be questioned, but those who were chosen to that high office of instructing youth, were persons of unspotted lives, and great learning, blended with natural abilities, who by many struggles, and self-denials, had gained a perfect conquest over both their vices and follies.

These worthy persons soon entered into your genius and dispositions ; and whatever devices, or plots, you had amongst yourselves, opened your understanding to the excellency of virtue, a devout adoration of heaven, with ideas of future punishments and rewards, according as merited.

It is certain, answered the *fly*, what little sense the *Europeans* have of virtue and religion, is owing to this part of our education ; yet how far does it fall short of what you imagine, they being generally pedants, with a surly dogmatical behaviour, torturing our young brains more about grammar, and the exactness of words, than trying to enlarge our understandings with any rational ideas, that should tend to the conduct of our future life : many indulging the pride, the authority they have over us, descend to mean

and ridiculous humours. But not to tire you with these trifles, I was nineteen when I was sent for home by my father, he designing I should learn all those accomplishments customary for youths of my quality. On my return I entered just before supper. After the first caresses, which was natural after so long an absence, the count introduced me to the ladies, then visiting my mother. I was certainly what my father expected me, a raw awkward creature: But whatever idea the ladies might have of me, I thought mademoiselle de *Barnaville* lovely beyond what I had ever imagined of the sex; I was a prating youth, on all occasions ready to talk; but before I had gazed on her half an hour, I was silent; confused with a consciousness of my inability, I never had had the least prehension of before. When they mentioned her name, I recollected she was the daughter of madame de *Barnaville*, whom I had always esteemed a queer sort of a creature, from the jests which had been made of her by all the family, except my father. To enter into her character, it will be necessary to inform you how we came acquainted with that lady: her husband was descended from a younger son of the prince de *Barnaville*, and had entered into the *Venetian* service; where, after
 he

he had done many gallant actions for that nation against the *Turks*, in his last engagement he and his ship were sunk, which was judged he chose himself, rather than surrender to them to be enslaved.

When the news was brought to madame de *Barnaville*, who lived at *Venice* in a splendid manner, she had not only her husband's loss to lament, but found he was so terribly in debt, that what he left would not pay half. This poor lady, for the good of his soul, which she thought would suffer as long as any of his debts remained unpaid, gave up all she had, and even the pension the state thought proper to allow her, to discharge what he owed, and returned to *France*, hoping her relations would take some care of her; but they letting her understand they did not desire to see her, she was reduced to great extremity. There had been between the count de *L——*, my father's eldest brother, and the chevalier de *Barnaville* such a friendship, that on the marriage of a sister he was fond of, on whom he settled the use of 20,000 crowns for her life, which was lodged in the *Venetian* bank in de *Barnaville's* name; writings of trust being drawn, that if his sister died without children, it was to descend to my father. I remember what a fright they were in, when they understood how madame de *Bar-*
D 4
naville's

neville's affairs were ; before they would think of looking for her, they sent to *Venice* to see if the stock remained, which, in spite of all his debts and creditors lay untouched ; then search being made for her, the count found her, and her little daughter, in very mean lodgings. This lady with great frankness received him, telling him she had such trusts, and as soon as she was convinced he was the count de *L—*, she would deliver them to him, which she did, and at the same time shewed him from his dead sister, letters wherein she had been tempted to wrong him ; and it as plainly appeared to my father, she might have done, it without his being able to call her to an account by the law, and 600 crowns of madame de *Barnaville's* being joined with my father's stock, she desired he would take it, and allow her an annuity for her and her daughter's life.

As this affair of his and her's were blended together at her request, he gave her not an over-profitable annuity ; she was to be settled in a little pleasant house, that joined to our park : it being sometime before the money could be got with sending too and fro to *Venice*, she was invited to pass the summer at our seat, till her little house was fitted up. At first, great civilities were paid to this lady by the countess
and

and the servants, as a person who had so justly taken care of so considerable a sum ; but when received, and all was over, they began to think her very troublesome ; the countess complaining the familiar creature behaved as if she thought she had given them twenty thousand crowns, or rather indeed as if she imagined herself mistress of so much. One night, after supper, a discourse arising about families, the old lady began a long history of her's, telling from how many saints and heroes she was descended, and tho' her's was one of the oldest arms *France* could boast, yet no blot had ever sullied their ermin, still keeping up to their motto, which was these words, *without spot* : this harangue created such a jest, that the servants waiting held their napkins to their mouths, ever after calling her, and her daughter, the *spotless ermin*. She soon retired to her house by the park : tho' my mother sometimes was tormented with her visits, which she was forced to receive by my father's commands ; in which state she continued till the count went for a season to another seat of his, and left with my mother a year's annuity to pay her ; but that, with a great deal more, the countess losing at play, madame de *Barnaville* made her several visits on that score, but she being denied, or sick, or out, at last

the old lady wanting the money, and vexed at her treatment, wrote a very sharp letter to her, saying she had given her word such a day, to pay some of it away, not expecting such usage from her.

This happened about three days before my father returned. When he entered the house he was received with the account how madame de *Barnaville's* mad letter had frightened their lady into a miscarriage : it cost him considerably to doctors before he could get her well : this made a perfect strangeness between them, which continued till after I went to school.

But soon after it seemed the bishop, and dutchess of *D* —, the chief lady of that province, coming acquainted with madame de *Barnaville*, and esteeming her a very well-bred gentlewoman, of admirable understanding, and extraordinary virtue, my mother condescended to make her several visits, before she could prevail on the old lady to return them ; and what yet was more surprizing, the dutchess being very fond of mademoiselle de *Barnaville's* beauty, and agreeable innocence, verses and songs were made on the charms of the *spotless Ermin*, by which name she was ever after called. I often visited these ladies, frequently saw them at the countess's, and at as many other places as I possibly could ;
yet

yet amidst the most agreeable freedom, she had such a reserve, that it was a long time before I had courage to let her know how passionately I loved her : at last, being beholden to my pen, I had wrote three or four letters, without receiving any answer, one day when I went to visit them, the old lady, (without *Ermine*) received me, and said, I had done very wrong, to send her daughter such letters ; and if I had any of those regards I expressed, the count my father, and herself, ought to have been consulted ; and with a very grave, tho' complaisant air, desired, for the future, I would forbear either writing to, or visiting her, lest she should be obliged to acquaint my father.

Tho' the haughtiness of her behaviour on this occasion piqued me, yet the depriving me of seeing mademoiselle, being what I could not live under, I still continued writing letters full of complaints, love, and protestations that I would marry her, when and where she pleased ; and as soon as by my father's death I became possessed of my estate, I would lay that, and myself, at her feet. This had no other effect, than madame de *Barnaville* carrying them to the count, who, after he had perused them, said, How few in this province, or indeed in the kingdom, would have acted this

part ! but, added he, I could not have expected less from madame de *Barnaville's* virtue.

As soon as she was gone, he called me into his closet, shewing me the letters ; the only thing I found that lady had favoured me in, was keeping back those which expressed the most earnest desire of his death, that I might become possessed of her lovely daughter. The count, contrary to my expectation, was very mild, telling me he had so great a regard for both those ladies, that his chief objection was my youth ; assuring me, if I continued to have the same inclinations after a year's travel, (which he intended immediately to fit me out for before this had been talked of) he would freely give his consent to the marriage : whatever reluctance I had for being so long deprived of seeing her, the hopes that the year would swiftly run on, and that then I was to be made happy, induced me to consent : but when I went to my mother, whom I hoped to have made an advocate, on the very mentioning it, she flew in a passion, calling me mean-spirited to have such groveling notions, as to think of bringing into the family a handsome beggar ; this drew from me upon her the rude reply, *That I had a wiser person than myself, my father's example for what I did*, adding, *all the world*
knew

knew the de Barnaville's were the nobler family. This so increased her fury, I left her for my father's philosophy to cool.

I went immediately to madame de *Barnaville's* ; the old lady smiled at the transports I was in, told me the count was wise, wishing me all manner of happiness, but would not let me see her daughter ; and when I earnestly pressed it, said, It is time enough twelve months hence, ending her discourse with her opinion, that *Ermine* had a voice that would become a choir.

In spite of my endeavours, it was impossible to see her : before I departed, one letter I sent to her was returned unopened, with a little note, wherein she told me she could receive no more letters, unless I could prevail on the count to be my advocate to her mother. I had the courage to ask him to get the old lady's consent for a correspondence to be between us in writing ; but he, byassed by my mother, kept only steady to his first promise.

Before I proceed, give me leave, lovely queen, to assure you, the only happiness I enjoyed in my mortal state, was that short space I conversed with madame de *Barnaville*, and her *spotless Ermin* : there was something so elevated in the old lady's genius, so attracting in the young one's virtue and sense, which were so blended with
good

good humour and wit, that I never after met their equals.

It is easy to believe all you say to their advantage, answered the queen, but what, continued she, prevented your happiness with that lady? Ah, madam, said *Papaglia*, what I shall acquaint you with will make you abhor a wretch, whose follies have been too shameful to move compassion; but my mother, who did not like a daughter-in-law, who would outshine her as much in beauty as virtue, and besides had long before intended me for a kinswoman of her own, a rich heiress, which my adverse stars had caused me to have as strong an aversion too, as I had liking to mademoiselle: her politic brains resolved to chuse for my companion, and tutor, a person that came into our province; he was one of those who, by extravagantly dressing, and seeming more extravagantly to spend, had got acquainted with young heirs, and by that means pushed himself into the knowledge of some families of distinction: he pretended to know what all the world was doing, from the statesman to the harlequin; could tell you how *Cupid* acted the politician at such a great lady's toilet; with the mysterious affairs of three nations being concerted by four fiddlers, and two orange-women.

The

The countess believing by this way of talk, he had great knowledge of the world, with many compliments, and some presents, prevails on him to take me under his care, he assuring her, that tho' I was as deeply in love as *Mark Anthony*, or the most amorous of mortals, he would, in less than six months, make all womenkind equally indifferent to me.

Accordingly a good sum was drawn from the count, and together we set out for *Paris*, where we no sooner arrived, but *Rapsal*, (for that was his name) had a whole rout of all sorts of trade-folks to equip me before I could appear; then when I was exactly set out in the form you see me, he introduced me to ladies extremely well dressed, in grand lodgings, who received, and treated us with something like the decent freedom of madame de *Barnaville*, and her *spotless Ermin*: but after three or four visits, on my taking notice of some very forward and immodest airs, he affected a *great laugh*, and said, he should be ashamed of me, if I still retained such queer notions: swearing that that old formal cant, with her pretty piece of wax-work, in *russet*, had quite spoiled me; adding, that these ladies had all the wit, the fire, and flame of polite breeding, with that elegance of freedom which only could
be

be understood by the very well-bred indeed ; and really they were so well bred that they soon won all my ready cash at play : I could take liberties with them, I never dared even to think of with mademoiselle ; they often jested about her ; and no doubt, perceiving she still retained too secure a hold, for them to draw me into marriage, and being sensible while the count lived, (who was very close of his money) I should not be able to support them, when they thoroughly drained my purse, they dropt me.

In the midst of this *Rapsal* told me, now he had a little seasoned me with the ladies, he would introduce me into company, and make me acquainted with what he called the spirit of knowing mankind, frolick, wit, and humour ; with the art of making myself known in a significant way. That was, (said the queen,) I suppose by forming your mind to grand ideas, a steady love for your country, beneficence, humanity, good-breeding, and softness to inferiors. You will easily judge, said *Papaglia*, what sort of ideas he formed my mind to, when I shall acquaint you, my first lesson was before the glass to study various looks, as the grand, the haughty, or the angry smile, or frown, with the careless, or absent, on occasion, to be used to a particular friend
or

or familiar acquaintance. The last, said *Iram*, I think, needed no instructions, the eyes are such intelligencers to the mind, that, on the sight of a loved friend, thither immediately all the spirits fly, giving such delight, that no acting can rise to nature's transports. I perceive, said the *fly*, it will be very hard to make you understand what I mean ; but, madam, it was to stare them full in the face, and not see them, as thus. ——— What sort of looks *Papaglia* shewed the queen, is not further explained, only that she appeared so amazed, that she asked him if any of those friends, or acquaintance, ever spoke to him after, or would know him ? To which he answered, that some of them were so weak, as to resent, or laugh at him ; but, from the generality, he found a more servile submission, at the very next meeting, if he vouchsafed to take any notice of them.

But to proceed in my relation : He said by his instructions to know the world, and be thought a person of consequence, I beat drawers, caned boxkeepers, hector'd, and swore at all that seemed afraid of me, or were unwilling to disoblige me ; not but to the person that had the courage to return my rough treatment, I had the skill to prevent the effusion of christian blood,

blood, by dropping my rage, and growing to like them for their smart spirit. *Rapsal* was acquainted with a club of these worthies, all gentlemen, as they called themselves, of fire, humour, wit, and droll, and such profound reasoners, that what yesterday we esteemed substantial reason, on the morrow was proved to be nonsensical, absurd, and ridiculous : in short, abandoned women, and these wretches, stuck to me like leeches, and hunted me so like furies, I had not one moment's time to recollect, or think ; they never letting me go to rest, till loaded with wine, or overcome with sleep, and raised by them to some new diversion, or debauchery, before I was well awake : between flattering and an insolent assuming, they got such an ascendant over my easy nature, that I knew not how to resist them ; yet *Ermine* still remained mistress of my heart, never thinking of her but this sort of life drew a deep red into my cheeks, wishing the year expired to return to her. Ten months had passed, when news came of the count's death ; the impudent joy with which all my companions congratulated me on (as they said) the happy occasion, made me ashamed to own the real concern I felt for his loss ; and so very weak was I, to vent my anguish, I retired and wept alone, yet to them

feigned

feigned an unconcern : on my saying I would go to pay my last duty, by attending my father's funeral, *Rapsal* said, he would be split if I did not still think of the *pretty rustick* (the title he had given the lovely *Ermine*) and he did not question but I was sot enough, to be content, at my seat, to dream life away with her : in short, so strongly was I beset by him, and his companions having notice from my servants (who were all his creatures) on the third day after I had received the news of my father's death, and the day I intended to return home, *Rapsal*, with the rest, entered my chamber early in the morning, and more by force than perswasion, took me out of my bed, and carried me to *Aix la chapelle*, where *Rapsal* said he had laid a scheme to have me chose king of the season, it being the custom of that place to pay such compliments to persons of distinction, for regulating the diversions of the place.

The way thither my ears were filled with what an advantage it would be to me ; he owned it would indeed be some expence, but then the concourse of the nobility was such, it would make me known ; my fame would certainly reach the court, without appearing to desire it, for the most polite young nobleman in the kingdom ; and as
to

to the ladies, it was the only way on earth to gain them.

Thus flattered and bullied, I suffered myself to be imposed on ; each pretending he had interest to make me a *general*, or *prime minister* of state ; my money flew without reserve, yet when the day came for chusing, I had not one single vote.

The surprize I was in at such a palpable affront, they excused, by talking how the prince of — was jealous of madame de V—, who was in love with me : vexed, and heated with wine, in the evening a ball being given to the ladies, I contrived to have a bear drove in among them, and leaving the rest of my companions, rode away only with *Rapsal* to my seat. On the way thither, he changed his behaviour to a more serious and submissive stile : beginning a discourse of madame de *Barnaville*, he said, he believed she might be a person of real virtue ; but the world was so full of hypocrisy, that her's too, perhaps, was feigned ; and if I could get the young one on easier terms than marriage, it would be well ; and at last, when there was no other hope of success, my person and fortune would be too ample a recompence for any insult I could offer. Fool ! he did not know them : but why do I say he did not know them ! This artful wretch,
born

born for my destruction, knew them too well, and laid this wicked scene to destroy all hope I could have of that lovely lady. I own I heard this discourse with uneasiness, being more inclined to make a trial of her virtue *to convince him*, than any hope, or indeed desire, to gain her by such means. I consented to this his request, on condition he would never more oppose me in any thing relating to that affair after such trial. I came home, and thus directed by him, I neither sent my compliments, nor visited them ; the first time I saw them was at church ; *Ermine* was grown taller, and fuller, and, if possible, ten times handsomer : such a pleasing sweetness at her devotion, her smiles irresistible, each motion so unaffected, and agreeably genteel, that even *Rassal* owned her unequalled. I who had often approached her trembling, endeavoured to talk to her with a well-bred freedom. The old lady answered with her usual frankness, *Ermine* cold and reserved ; at parting, I told madame *Barnaville* I would wait on them that afternoon, she answered with a smile. Accordingly I went, and found a good many visitors, but not *Ermine* : the ladies talking of the affair of *Aix la chapelle*, madam de *Barnaville* said, she believed the company of that place were less surprized at my driving in the bear
amongst

amongst them, than setting up for king before I had buried my father. If that reproach drew the blood into my face, I was much more vexed, when I asked to see her daughter, at her telling me, after the talk I had occasioned before I went abroad, she desired to be excused from receiving any visits, till I brought a lady with me. I made no answer, but a bow, and left them. Quite mad, I went to my counsellor, who said I had betrayed my inclinations too plainly, by gazing on her all the time I was at church, which the old lady was too cunning not to perceive, and doubtless intended to strike the affair home; that I must appear more cool to succeed. I passed a fortnight without seeing her, perplexed between pride and inclination, which last was every minute gaining the ascendant, when *Rapsal* one morning entering my chamber, told me, if I would follow his advice, he would throw *de Barnaville* into my arms: the joy I discovered, made him proceed, he telling me I must resolve to act in this affair with as much intrepidity, as if I were to face an enemy in battle; that is, added he, you must not be moved either by her rants of virtue, tears, swoonings, fits, or intreaties. I was so transported at the thoughts of

of seeing her without her mother, I readily agreed to every thing he advised.

We dined together alone, and talked of nothing else ; by his advice, to give me courage, I drank till the wine influenced me : this vicious wretch understanding my valet was acquainted with a *milliner* that sold things to *Ermine*, he was set on by *Rapsal* to perswade this young woman, if she could get mademoiselle to her house, and let his master come in, as by accident, she should have a considerable reward, besides engaging me to be for ever her friend. The girl thus influenced by the valet, and knowing that young lady was fond of new-fashioned works, and she happening to have some come from *Paris*, to be made up for a considerable family in that province, let her know such a day they were to go home, desiring her to come and see them.

I was planted before she came ; the *milliner* carrying her up into a one-pair-of-stairs room that fronted the street, had begun to shew her the things, when I entered : *Ermine* looked out of humour ; I accosted her with freedom, talked, laughed, and commended her beauty, endeavouring all ways to force a conversation, but in vain ; for after she had slightly viewed the things, she rose to be gone, only answering

ing all I said to her, by saying, that I had learned such a strange sort of politeness, it was impossible for a *country rustic* to understand me, nor indeed did she desire it. We were all at the door of the room, which the *milliner* was opening, when I, in a romping way, thrust the young woman out ; and locked *Ermine* in : the terrible fright which appeared in her looks, spoke more the distress of her mind, than swooning fits, or the most eloquent words ; yet was I such a monster, I caught her in my arms, ravished some kisses, and advancing to greater freedoms, when she gave me a blow on the eye, and with all her strength sprung from me to the window, which was open, and, quick as thought, twisting one of the curtains round her arm, leaped into the street, the hook of the rod happening to give way, it was thought helped to break the fall : I ran to the window after her, and looking out saw two friers belonging to a neighbouring convent, come to her assistance, and raise her up senseless.

Tho' my concern for her was so great, I was ready to follow her ; yet the sight of the friers, in a moment awakened the thoughts of my danger ; and with what speed I could, I got out at the back-door, and went home : the first I met was my
 steward,

steward ; I told him what had happened : he shook his head, and said, this *Rapsal* has undone you, and will, I fear, be the ruin of your family. I did not then mind what he said, but since have too much reason to remember his words. He advised me immediately to retire to a seat I had eighty miles off, and stay there till this affair was blown over, which, he said, he feared would make a great noise. I took his advice, we agreeing that no one, not even my mother, should know where I was ; he only to send me intelligence. — Here *Papaglia* ceased, and the queen looking up, saw he was vanished.



B O O K IV.

THE *queen* acquainted the ladies with the closet-conversation, telling them she feared, by the extravagant and wicked description he had given of himself, that he was an evil spirit, employed by *Maillan*, and had tempted her thus rashly to suffer her children to be destroyed. *Sinza* endeavoured to dissipate these thoughts, by assuring her she imagined the reverse, he having expressed so real a

VOL. I. E concern

concern and detestation for his follies and faults, not rather to hope she would find when the heats and flights of youth were cooled by experience, his mind had taken a quite different turn.

But answered *Iram*, there is something so very low and apeish in the vices and pleasures of these *Europeans*, that were it not for the old lady and her daughter, whose characters are so different from the rest, I should imagine the world, in those parts, was possessed by fiends, who had assumed the form and manners of our larger sort of apes ; they being in all their ways as senseless and insignificant, and full as malicious, as are the actions of those irrational animals.

Sinza told her she had observed in their histories, the often-mentioned odd fancies that had prevailed amongst their great ones, which, of consequence, the meaner sort were too apt to imitate ; who blindly admire the ways and manners of their superiors, without entering into the virtue and rationality of what they do : as for example, she said she had read of one of their great and mighty sovereigns, who ruled and had dominion over larger and more numerous nations, than even their dread lord *Pretejan*, who raised prodigious armies, and covered the sea with
their

their ships, and sailed to a very remote northern isle, only to pick up frivolous shells ; and that one of his * predecessors, still more extravagantly whimsical, ordered immense sums to be laid out to purchase cobwebs, which were sought for with great industry, barrelled up, and brought from all parts of the country to his royal palace.

And to convince you such absurd folly has even reached our sun-burnt climes, does not *Maillan*, after all his slaughters and crimes, who through a sea of blood has waded to his sovereign's crown, now make it his chief delight to steal out of the palace, disguised like a centinel, to get a dish of meat dressed, as the mean people eat it, when forced by hunger ; and a woman of low race, for happening to have a lucky hand in managing it to his appetite, lives attended in a shining palace, as a princess of *Pretejan's* blood. It is true, (answered the queen,) he might have enjoyed this odd sort of pleasure, as the *Fan* of *Sangree*, without involving this land and posterity in those miseries his fatal wiles have and will cause.

Besides this ill opinion of *Papaglia* from his relation of himself, *Iram* doubts

E 2

his

* *Nero*, and *Heliogabius* are the two emperors, *Sin-za* means.

his predictions and directions were erroneous, from the hopes *Nipblodoge* had given her of being soon set at liberty, with her dower, and to be returned to her brother's dominions, he having sent ambassadors for that purpose; and on *Maillan* refusing to deliver her back with her dower, he had entered *Darchy* with a powerful force, compelling the people to pay him tribute, as far as the river *Rart*; but whatever were the deluded hopes of that unhappy queen from the victorious arms of her brother, the third year of her captivity passed on to the day of *Papaglia's* visitation; he let her know he was not ignorant of her suspicions; adding, he did not greatly blame her, being conscious her misfortunes were of two severe a nature, not to create endless distrusts and fears: yet, trust me, lovely lady, pursued the *fly*, however faulty I might be when mortal, I am now sincere; and, as a confirmation of it, know all those flattering hopes you have from your brother, you will soon be sensible are at an end. For not many days since, the articles of peace were signed by each prince, and in exchange for your liberty, *Maillan* has resigned all the rich province of *Darchy*, and that people are, for ever, to hold obedience to your brother, as their sovereign. It is true, there are
many

many promises of what gentle usage you are to have, to make your bondage as easy as possible, tho' still you are to be kept exceeding close, for fear you should, by any means or contrivance, make *Pretejan* acquainted with the long train of villanies committed by him against his sovereign, your injured lord.

Iram was inclined to believe *Papaglia* from the delays she had lately perceived in that affair of her brother ; and after some expressions what a cruel merciless vice ambition was, that thus could make a brother break thro' all the ties of blood, friendship, and natural affection, she enquired about her children ; and he assuring her they were in health, she desired him to proceed in his history, which he did as follows :

According to my steward's advice, single, and without one attendant, I flew from the place of my nativity, for intending a crime the most profligate would have been shock'd at. As I rode along, the dreadful thought of her being killed, or at least extremely hurt, with a full recollection of my past follies, threw me into such a despair, that I wanted little of laying violent hands on myself. How detestable was *Rapsal* in those moments, with all the absurdities

with which he had bewildered my understanding. And not without reason, answered *Iram* ; for had you, or your friends murdered his parents, ravished his sister, or destroyed his whole race, he could not have studied a more keen revenge than the way he took to make you appear as he promised, significantly odious, to the world. To set you on to abuse your inferiors, insult and affront the peaceable, overlook and slight your friends, and meanly creep to those that dare resent your ill usage. Besides, the other debaucheries, impiously neglecting to pay the last duties to your parents ; affronting his memory by thrusting yourself into public diversions ; and when disappointed, savagely frightening our sex with your bear. Your intentions on *Ermine* was a full completion of all the rest ; shewing to what a height of wickedness our nature reaches, when turned the least from virtue's paths : but, proceeded the queen, amidst my own severe afflictions, I have sustained uneasy thoughts on *Ermine's* account ; telling him she wanted to know if she escaped with life, or whether he was so unhappy to have been the cause of her death.

Ah, madam, think what I endured, answered *Papaglia*, tortured four days with the utmost grief that could possess the heart
of

of man, before I received a letter from my steward, wherein he acquainted me, that the friers had had her carried home ; and as soon as her senses were recovered, she had related all that had passed at the miliner's, with her extraordinary escape : he further informed me, that madame de *Barnaville*, who had till then borne all her misfortunes with admirable patience, now raging like a lioness robbed of her young, had complained to the chancellor of the province, the bishop, intending to appeal to the king ; that warrants had been granted, and the milliner and valet were taken up, who confessed *Rapsal* set them on ; that he also was in custody, my mother taking great pains to get him bailed : he added, that strict search had been made for me, the whole province being for madame de *Barnaville*, the dutchess and bishop assisting her with their power and friendship. As to *Ermine*, she was bruised, but no limb hurt, only a little fever occasioned by her fright.

All the rest of the steward's account was recompenced by the knowledge that *Ermine* was likely to do well, I never having ceased a moment, thinking of her from the fatal one of her dangerous escape ; each thought increasing my passion for her ; that unaffected innocence that shewed itself in such a lively manner in the terrors that

appeared in her looks, when she saw herself shut in with me to the hour of my death, were impressed in my mind.

And now, having no restraint nor adviser, but following the bent of my inclination, I ordered my steward to go to madame de *Barnaville*, and with the utmost submission ask pardon, and declare the real truth, how I was influenced, the contrivance being intirely *Rapsal*'s, and to assure her she need not to go to law to recover damages, I intending to lay myself and fortune at her daughter's feet, and by an immediate marriage, put every thing in their power, to atone for my past misbehaviour.

In his next letter, he informed me he had waited on madame de *Barnaville* with my letter, which had so far pacified her, that she dropped the prosecution, releasing the milliner, and valet; but *Rapsal* was still in custody; but as to the marriage with her daughter, she would not hear of it; the general talk being, as soon as the young lady was recovered, she was to take the veil: this very much stung me, I never supposing the old lady, with all her haughtiness, would refuse so advantageous a husband, as I thought myself, for her daughter: and tho' I own I had heard sermons, and read some discourses on the excellency
of

of virtue, this first awakened in me the reflection to what a height of grandeur it raises the mind : on the contrary, to what low meanness vice sinks it. My flatterers had perswaded me, there was hardly a lady in the kingdom would have refused the count de L—— ; but now I perceived my vices and folly had caused me to be rejected by the daughter of a poor widow ; and that I, who had vainly imagined titles, extent of land, and riches, were the ultimate blessing of human life, now found too late, they only helped to make our other perfections shine with greater lustre, and a stronger blaze, and my rank had caused my conduct only to appear more conspicuously ridiculous.

Thus taking myself to task, together with the fear of losing *Ermine*, I fell sick, and was about six weeks before I could think or resolve on any thing, when I was roused by a letter from my *steward*, which acquainted me, that mademoiselle was entered into a nunnery, and very soon was to be professed ; the bishop intending a dispensation for the year of noviceship ; the ceremony of her being professed was to be publick, and extremely grand, the *dutchess* having presented *Ermine* with a very rich habit, suitable to the rank of her family,

and that most of the nobility of the province would be at it.

My concern was so extreme, it touched my brain. Immediately I returned, and threw myself at the *dutchess* and *bishop's* feet, to get them to intercede for me to *madame de Barnaville* and her daughter. The *bishop* at first appeared cold, and unwilling to hear me, but the *dutchess*, after some discourse, relented, owning she pitied me, being afraid all attempts were too late; tho' she assured me, she would use all her interest with the *bishop*, *madame de Barnaville*, and her daughter.

The *dutchess* was sincere, and in four days before she was professed I met at the convent, the *bishop*, the *dutchess*, and *madame de Barnaville*. The *bishop* began with saying what an importunate sollicitrix the *dutchess* had been, and if *Ermine* were inclined to espouse me, she should by no persuasions of his be hindered: *madame de Barnaville* spoke to the same purpose, adding farther, that she sincerely forgave the past affront; and if her daughter was willing, I should have her free consent: at these words I expressing great joy, she said, my lord, do not too much flatter yourself for fear *Ermine* should be determined.

The young lady was called: as soon as she saw me, she appeared surprized and frightened,

frightened, offering to withdraw ; but her *mother* and the *bishop* speaking to her, she advanced. He, with a very grave mein, told her, that he understood I had long courted her ; and tho' my irregular behaviour might justly have disoblged her, yet I being conscious how very much I had been in the wrong, and, added he, has declared both to these ladies and myself, he loves you too passionately not to be miserable without you, and will make all reparation possible for his past offence, in being the best of husbands : he assured her, as she had not taken the veil, nor yet made the vow, she was free, and without sin might quit the thoughts of a monastic life, and make the count de L — happy.

All the while the *bishop* spoke, I observed she heard him with uneasiness ; and when he had ended, turning her eyes to the ground, without vouchsafing me one regard, she said, my lord, is this a trial to discover whether any ugly passions, or thoughts, are lurking in my breast which may make me unworthy to enter this holy place : but the *bishop*, the *dutchess*, and likewise her *mother*, assured her it was at my request, which madame de *Barnaville* confirmed with her repeated free and sincere consent. The generous *dutchess* too told her, she was assured I looked with
horror

horror on my past behaviour, nor did she question but her amiable society, and excellent example, would not only make me happy here, but hereafter. To which that inexorable sharply replied, *I shall not venture my own happiness on that hope.* I then said all that grief, love, and despair could urge; my trembling and incoherent words fully expressing the agonies of my mind: but that imperious fair one, looking on me with eyes that sparkled with resentment, said, My lord, I will own, had your love worn that innocent and respectful form it first appeared in, I am afraid I should have left the world with some reluctance; but now not satan's frightful fiends, nor the infernal region itself, could strike me with greater terror, nor abhorrence, than the thoughts of count de L—: ending these words, she left the room; distracted, I still urged them to try if possible to soften her; they gave me little hope, but promised they would again use their utmost efforts.

The next evening I received a note from the *dutchess*, wherein she acquainted me, not only herself, but madame de *Barnaville* had pressed very hard in my favour, but without the least success.

Tho' the *bishop*, and all my friends, had persuaded me not to see her professed, yet
early

early as the day, I went to the convent, watching about like a laquey, to try to send in some message, but in vain. After I had spent about four hours cursing my fate, and complaining to the walls and stones, I saw madame de *Barnaville* coming out, her eyes red with crying; when she approached, viewing me very earnestly, she said, my lord, what do you do here? You seem fitter for your bed; that paleness, with the look of your eyes, are too plain proofs that the loss of my daughter has touched you: do not then venture to increase your trouble by a fresh sight of her; for I myself find I have not courage to see her quit me and the world for ever, to lose her sweet society, and those pleasing amusements with which she used to beguile my tedious hours, and soften the miseries of a lone, unhappy life. Ah, madam, said I, think then what I endure; the wretch, extended on the rack has ease, and would himself pull the torturing cords, to escape the anguish of my mind. I do not doubt, said she, but in these moments, your uneasiness may be as sharp as you describe: pride and resentment for so unexpected a disappointment helps to imbitter the loss; tho', continued that lady, it is you, count de *L—*, have been the occasion of her so soon taking the veil, which else had been deferred

deferred till my death, and by that means I am robbed of her; yet I cannot see you thus without the utmost concern, tho' in this unhappy affair, there is this difference between us, you will have every advantage, every pleasure this world can give, to sooth and soften, and with time, expunge the pain; whilst I, an old weather-beaten tree, by the storms of fortune long since shattered, this last shock has torn up by the root, to lie and mix with my native clay. Here the tears forced their passage, in spite of all she could do to conquer them; and I, mingling mine with her's, she reassuming the discourse, said, the first raging of a great misery must a little be given way to, or we should sink under it; but to yield to the anguish, or indulge the frenzy, the mind heats the brain, and drives to distraction; whilst resolution, with patience, tho' its advances are slow, yet by degrees it surely conquers: try it, my lord, it has been my constant remedy. Much more she said to the same purpose, with such a friendly sweetness, that I began to feel the power of her persuasions, when the music of the convent beginning to play, in a moment destroyed all, I starting from her, and like a fury ran into the church.

I stayed not long before *Ermine* appeared, the *dutchess*, with most of the nobility

bility of the province, attending her. The whole assembly owned nothing could exceed her in beauty and mein; she had on a coronet, with robes, as I shall hereafter relate to you, such was the dignity of that lovely lady.

Hurried by my despair, when she approached the altar to make her vows, I coming up to her kneeled down, and taking her by the hand, said, I conjure you by this holy place, and by all that can touch or move you to compassionate me, before you make your vow, to think what a miserable wretch you leave me; remember too, thou loveliest of thy sex, that tho' with the strictest reserve, you yielded to the directions of your mother, you expressed not that dislike which damps and nips the beginnings of a young love; then let not your resentment over-rule, for one rash fault, and be the murderer of him, who, from the first moment he saw you, has not ceased adoring you.

At this extravagant action of mine, the *bishop* and *priests* remained silent, waiting to see the event; *Ermine* while I spoke was troubled and confused, without any of that sparkling anger in her eyes that appeared at our last meeting; three or four times she attempted to speak before she could, her voice faltering. At the last she said, my
lord,

lord, why do you trouble my repose? were I inclined, it is past, and out of my power; for heaven knows, the moment my returning senses made me capable to think what a happy escape I had out of the window, I then with humble thanks dedicated myself, with the most solemn vows, to this life, which I am here come to confirm and ratify; therefore, my lord, I have nothing more to say, than that I hope the Divine Goodness, to whom we all bow, will moderate every uneasy thought, and make you happy above your wishes.

Ending these words she turned toward the *bishop*; I, wild with my despair, dashed my head against a pillar, and fell down senseless; a general sigh was heard throughout the place. They said *Ermine*, when she saw me fall, turned pale, and trembling sunk down on her knees, where she remained some time, but recovering herself, she rose, and left her coronet, robes, and fine hair on the altar, took the veil, and inclosed herself for ever. The fly departed.

BOOK V.

THE *queen*, by her being continued still a prisoner, and understanding a cessation of arms, and all sorts of hostilities were stopped between her *brother* and *Maillan*, is inclined each moment more fully to believe *Papaglia's* predictions, which caused her with impatience to wish the approaching moments of his next visit.

When he came; after the usual discourse about her children, and he having told her he was permitted to assure her of their being safe, and in perfect health, she desired he would continue his history, which he did, as follows :

I was carried home senseless and extremely bruised, which caused me to fall into a light-headed fever that lasted six or seven weeks before they were certain I should recover, and whatever care might be expected would be taken of a person of my rank, it was to my good old *steward's* assiduity I owed the restoration of my health ; I in the first rage of frenzy having flown out with such violence against them, my *mother* and *Rapsal* both absented themselves.

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As soon as my senses were a little settled, my *steward* let me know madame de *Barnaville* fell sick the day her daughter was professed, and her illness increasing, her life was despaired of; that she had often with concern sent to enquire of my health, as had also the *dutchess* and the *bishop*; the two last intending, when my physicians would permit, to visit me, which I prevailing on them to consent to, the next day the *bishop* came.

In conversation, my first thoughts and curiosity being to enquire after my lovely *Ermine* and madame de *Barnaville*, the *bishop*, with a grave concern in his looks, told me he was just come from performing the last offices of his function to madame de *Barnaville*, who was not expected to live twenty four hours; and, added he, so great is the sense and virtue of that lady, I have edified more by her admirable way of thinking, and example, than in all the transactions of my life. After I had with a real grief, regretted the thoughts of losing the mother, I again renewed my talk of the daughter; but he told me, I must strive to forget her, and imagine, that she too with her mother, was to be laid in death's cold arms. I know, continued he, the task will be difficult, but you must collect all your strength and power of reason to drive

drive every idea of her from your soul: this affliction, proceeded he, tho' I own it is severe, may be a remedy to guard you from future ills, and worthless acquaintance; the world is so full of *Rapsals*, not for you to meet with them in every conversation, and you must fix in your mind a steady resistance to every pleasure that is opposite to the moral virtues, but above all to shun the impious fleerers on religious and divine rights.

Many things he said to the same purpose; and letting me understand I had in my disorders taken very indecent and outrageous liberties with my mother, who, tho' said he, she may not be intirely free from blame, yet so great is the respect and duty we owe to the person whom heaven has allotted our receiving our being from, I think, added he, you ought not to rest a moment till you have obtained her pardon for your offences; this I readily complied with, the *countess* was desired to come to my apartment for that purpose: before the *bishop*, with the utmost respect, I begged she would forget every faulty, or irregular thing, my frenzy, or rage, had caused me to commit. She received my submission with a grave coolness, representing to me, that I had not only used her very ill, but also monsieur *Rapsal*, and let me understand, as
an

an atonement for my past misbehaviour, she expected I should restore him to my former friendship ; on which my colour beginning to rise, and I to grow warm, the *bishop* interrupting her, said, he could not have imagined a lady of her quality would attempt to vindicate a man, who had set her son on to act such an execrable deed ; a deed, added he, that ought to shock the modesty of your sex, tho' designed against the lowest, the meanest peasant or slave, much more a person of *Ermine's* rank and dignity.

The *countess*, I perceived, heard this discourse with great uneasiness, answering, It was true, she did not deny it was a fault she was far from approving ; but the gaieties of youth were apt to be guilty of some wildness ; and in this affair, monsieur *Rapsal's* crime could only be thought an over-zeal to serve his friend ; not but she esteemed violence offered to the meanest of womankind, very wrong ; but, added she, with a toss of her head, and some scornful movements in the muscles of her face, as to madame de *Barnaville* and her daughter's great rank and dignity, you must pardon me, my *lord bishop*, if I think both you and the *dutchess* to blame, (whatever your compassion might be for the poor creature's distresses and poverty,) to en-
courage

courage to that degree, an old frantick madwoman, in the pride of *birth* and *family*, and I know not what ridiculous notions: the *bishop* replied, with his eyes sparkling with anger, that frantick madwoman, as you stile her, in the just care of the trust confided in her *husband*, was too beneficial to your family, not for you in some degree to have known her worth, otherwise than to make her misfortunes the subject of your ridicule, and with a horrid ingratitude, to vindicate, if not encourage, a wretch to injure her in the cruellest, the most irreparable way, by attempting to violate her only child; but, pursued he, to convince you, that you are as little capable to comprehend that great lady's worth, as for the blind to distinguish colours, had not a virtue as exalted as *martyrs* when they run into flames and embrace their tortures, prevented, she had been our monarch's queen, and our mistress.

To what a height this discourse might have rose, it is impossible to say; for my part, I was conscious I had been lately out of my senses, and could not tell which of us three was most faulty that way; for tho' I thought my mother's pride intolerable, to treat those ladies misfortunes with that contempt; yet to hear a grave bishop tell of her great and exalted virtue preventing

venting her from being a queen, was so novel and out of the way, I feared my delirium was returned, when the attendants interrupted us, by letting us know the *dutchess* was come to see me; she answered my mother's compliments but coldly: after she had with great sweetness congratulated me on the recovery of my health, she said to the *bishop*, tho' I intended myself the pleasure of seeing the count as soon as possible, yet I own my visit to day is owing to my knowing you were here, I really wanting your assistance to help me to support my affliction; I need not say any more when I tell you, not ten minutes are passed since I saw madame de *Barnaville* expire, the tears following each other successively down her cheeks; the sincere regard I had for that lady caused mine to accompany her's.

After some silent moments, the *bishop* said, Let us no more lament her, who is now gone to receive the reward of all her long sufferings, great patience, and admired self-denial; why do we grieve for her, added he, who perhaps this moment is receiving a glorious, immortal crown, for the earthly one her great virtue refused. It is not her, said the *dutchess*, I lament, but myself, who have lost so valuable, so agreeable a friend; a few days since, pursued she, I found her so chearful, I was in hopes we should have had

had her longer amongst us ; but last night receiving a letter from the *duke*, wherein he desired me to acquaint her from the *king*, his majesty intended her a present of twenty thousand crowns, with the revenue of her principality for her life, besides large donations, and royal privileges to the convent *Ermine* is in. Oh, with what delight, cried the *dutchess*, did I propose to carry her this news, in hopes it might have proved more beneficial to her health, than the physician's art : but alas ! when I approached to her bed-side, I found ghastly death, with his unrelenting hands, had seized her ; I began to mention what was in the letter, but she stopt me, saying, There was a time, when this news would have filled her with inexpressible joy ; but I thank heaven, which by my afflictions has taught me long since to despise all above food and raiment ; not but, pursued she, your excellent and unchangeable friendship in this fresh proof, is the last pleasure this terrestrial world can give me, for which I return you my dying thanks. Many other handsome things she said, pursued the *dutchess*, worthy her good understanding, and soon after, in a fit, expired.

The *bishop*, who had the *duke* her husband's letter in his hand, seemed to be well pleased with the benefits and royal privileges

leges designed for the convent where *Ermine* was, and looking at the *dutchess*, said, I see his majesty intends to have her funeral obsequies performed with the utmost pomp, and with every honour due to her illustrious and princely birth.

I, who had with strict attention listened to their whole discourse, (interrupting the *bishop*) said, If I mistake not, you are speaking of madame de *Barnaville*; and I fancy I heard something of her refusing to be a *queen*; the *dutchess* too, I imagine, talks in the same stile, of the revenues of her principality; and lastly, you mention the funeral honours due to her *princely birth*. Are these things really so, or only the effect of my late distemper? To this the *countess* smartly answered, Perhaps those who believe themselves in their perfect senses, would be as much surprized, and imagine it as strange as you do, who have lately had a light-headed fever.

I am conscious, answered the *dutchess*, my concern for that valuable lady, in talking thus to the *bishop*, has made me guilty of an error to yourself, and the *count*, but I will not ask you, if you have heard of the princess *Beatrix de Barnaville*, because I remember once in a visit at our palace, when you were viewing her picture, you was mightily pleased with several stories
the

the marquis de *Reverry* told of that prince's wit. Yes, replied my mother, one must be stupid not to own the princess *Beatrix* the greatest genius of her sex; and, with a malicious smile she added, I very well remember too, when the marquis de *Reverry* complimented *Ermine* on her resembling that beautiful picture, notice was taken what a satisfied pride appeared amidst her blushes for being thought like that princess, to whom perhaps she might be akin also, in the eighth or ninth degree; while the old one, with a familiar contempt, seemed to despise it: we too, answered the dutchess, on the other side, had our diverting remarks, to think, while you were so charmed with the wonders of the princess *Beatrix's* shining wit, you could no more discover one spark in the unfortunate de *Barnaville*, than you could from the picture trace her features, which time had so roughly touched; for the princess *Beatrix* and madame de *Barnaville* were one and the same person.

Imagine, great lady, the countess's confusion and my surprize: nor is mine less, answered the imprisoned queen, for tho' I admire the virtues of that valuable lady, yet now my concern is increased, to think what cruel turns of adverse fortune reduced her to so low an ebb; and how her great mind must be mortified, who, from

a princely rank, and a generous and liberal education, was reduced to converse with those of low and sordid ideas, who are incapable to comprehend her great and elevated way of thinking: but, pursued she, will you not oblige us with her history; perhaps from her example I may learn to moderate my griefs.

As, answered *Papaglia*, I prevailed on the *bishop*, (the *dutchess* and my mother being present) to acquaint me with many particulars of that lady, I will begin the relation till my sixty minutes are expired.

The History of the Princess Beatrix de Barnaville.

R*enatus de Barnaville*, the father of the princess *Beatrix*, married a daughter of the earl of *Flanders*; the king of *France* by this marriage soon discerned he was attached to the interest of the earl his father-in-law, with whom the king at that time had fierce wars: this caused him to look on *Renatus* as his enemy, and some disputes arising between him and that prince concerning the bounds of *Renatus's* territories, it occasioned him openly to side with the earl; when peace was made between the king of *France* and the earl of *Flanders*,

Flanders, with great difficulty the earl got him admitted into the articles, tho' on the hard terms of sending one of his children to that court, as a hostage. The prince had two sons and a daughter, the eldest was hid in a neighbouring kingdom, to prevent going as hostage, and the youngest some time before was gone to the holy land; which obliged the prince to send his only daughter the princess *Beatrix*. Great care had been taken of her education by her mother, who was lately dead; and her person and genius promised no less than the wonder of her sex.

When *Renatus* found it impossible to prevent her being sent, he chose for her governess madame de *Sansier*, who was esteemed a wise and accomplished lady; I attended as preceptor of languages and philosophy.

The day we set out with our little train, *Renatus* taking leave of her with many fond expressions of love, she answered, (as she was leaping on her horse) I shall know how well you love your *Beatrix* by your obedience to the king to whom you are sending me a pledge of your duty: the princess wanted then some months of being twelve years old.

When we arrived at the city the king that season resided at, so incensed was he

against her *father*, we were not admitted to the presence in three months : her retinue was small, but very handsomely set out ; and when that little lady appeared, her person and mein surprized the whole presence. With a modest grace she threw herself at the *king's* feet, and begged him to have compassion on an inoffensive victim, that was sent a sacrifice to atone for her *father's* offences : to the queen she addressed with such a pleasing insinuation, that they might imagine she was instructed what to say ; yet her delivery and manner was so peculiarly agreeable, and there was such life and spirit, with an artless air of innocence in all she said and did, I own I never saw her equal ; and at the very first she gained such ground, that her reception was much better than was expected.

About a fortnight after, a ball being given to entertain some foreign princes, *Beatrice* danced to the surprize of the whole assembly ; they said she surpassed poetical description : *Virgil's Camilla*, whose light feet flew over the standing corn, without crushing the tender blade, was verified in her. The *king* and *queen* were so pleased, that from that night, an apartment was assigned her in their palace ; the *queen* taking her into her protection ; and indeed both his *majesty* and royal *consort* were so
equally

equally pleased with her, it was impossible to judge which was fondest.

And to shew you the spirit of this young *princess*, one day as she and a lady were talking, the *queen* entering, heard some of their words, which creating in her a curiosity to know what they had been talking of, she asked about their discourse, and the *lady* having told *Beatrix* something, she had rather the *queen* should believe the *princess* had mentioned than herself, repeats the discourse, and with a well-bred assurance, tells the *queen*, before the *princess*, she had been entertaining her with it. *Beatrix*, who had been bred to great sincerity and truth, heard her with amazement, and without interrupting her, until she had finished; then looking very seriously at her, asked her, *If she ever thought when she was alone?* The lady answered, *That doubtless she did.* Then said *Beatrix*, *What a contemptible opinion must you have of your self, when you reflect, that I know you have been guilty of telling untruths to her majesty, you being conscious all that you have mentioned in this discourse, was what you were relating to me when the queen entered; and if you feared it would displease, why did you let me know it? But before you should have ventured to have made me the mother of your story, you should have known whether I had*
liked

liked to be the parent. This circumstance, as trifling as it may appear, convinced the courtiers *Beatrix* was of a spirit not to be taken liberties with.

Each day the sun rose, she grew a greater favourite with their *majesties*, the king often saying, *Let us go to the princess's apartment, and divert us with de Barnaville's chat* : and how often has it been said, her presence diffused a gaiety through the whole assembly, and when she was absent, the laughing graces flagged and dropt their wings.

Yet amidst these pleasures, and various diversions, that hourly danced before her, she had a heart truly virtuous, besides her private *devotion*, each morning constantly attending the *publick* ; and one day as she was passing through the gallery to the royal chapel, she saw an elderly gentlewoman in tears, telling a lord of the bed-chamber, whose office it was to receive and lay the petitions before his *majesty*, this was the thirty-sixth petition she had given, without being able to get any answer, telling them she was sure, if his *majesty* knew her case, she should not want redress. The *princess* coming up to her, after some questions, took her petition, bidding her in two or three days to attend, and she would see what could be done for her.

Accord-

Accordingly, the king, as usual, coming into the queen's apartment, the queen, de Barnaville, with other ladies, were making artificial flowers: after the king had been there some time, and *Beatrice* perceived him in a very good humour, she with her scissars cut and spoiled a good deal of paper: at last the queen taking notice, said, *Princess, you seem to be in a humour to waste paper. Let not that displease your majesty,* replied de Barnaville, *for I intend to make interest with the lords of the bed chamber, to give me all the undelivered petitions; for, see here,* said she, shewing the widow's petition, *this is the thirty-sixth petition a poor gentlewoman has taken all the pains that is possible, to present to his majesty, but in vain.* The king, laughing at the extravagant number, took it: he had no sooner looked on it, than he cried out, *What a negligence have I been guilty of! this unhappy woman's husband, when the rebels forced me to besiege the city of M ———, and I was put to such straits as to be forced to have my plate coined into money, this very worthy gentleman mortgaged his lands for bread, which supported the army till the city surrendered. For which great and loyal action,* said the princess, *his children now want that bread their father so gallantly assisted your majesty with: but let it not give you any pain, historians are*

above mentioning such trifling accidents in their histories; so that it can neither injure your fame, nor strike at your successors, else when a right loyal heart burns with eager desires to assist majesty in distress, a few such instances as this would, like water thrown on a fire, a little damp their zeal. The king, looking at the queen, said, This little satirist has in a few words said a great deal, and what I shall always remember: then, turning to the princess, said, As you have been so fortunate to me and the widow, let her have the honour to be introduced by you to us. I need not say with what pleasure she undertook the office. It seems, soon after the city surrendered, the gentlewoman's husband happened to die, and this friendless widow had met with no generous advocate to speak to the king, till Providence brought our young princess, who proved so lucky as to have her provided for beyond her hopes.

This affair got *Beatrix* an office that did not greatly please the first minister, yet she managed it with such caution, that however she might be envied, she escaped blame, never meddling with any thing but what was to right the greatly injured, or those that were extremely distressed.

Being perpetually about his person, young as she was, she was perfectly acquainted

quainted with his majesty's temper, and knew how to sooth, or turn, his anger better than the oldest courtier; and indeed, such an ascendant she had over him, he long had loved, without knowing he did.

In one affair her compassion gained her the universal love of all: for his *majesty*; having most part of his reign been harassed and teased with the rebellious and turbulent spirit of his subjects, it had so enraged him, that he resolved to use them with the utmost severity.

Accordingly he ordered fifty citizens, that had been taken in arms against him, to be hanged at his palace gates, where they had dared to approach with threats of firing it, unless their demands were complied with.

The *queen*, the *chief ministers*, and *nobles*, had intreated in vain for them. After the king was withdrawn, the *queen* said to *Beatrice*, *How happened it, princess, you were dumb, and would not utter one word for those poor people? Because*, answered she, *I perceived all that was urged in their favour did not allay, but increase his anger. Yet, tho' she appeared so unconcerned in publick, her governess has since told me, (said the bishop) most part of that night she spent in devotion, and the next day when she came from church, she sent to their*

confessors, to desire they would delay the prisoners as long as possible, by instruction and prayer, while she went and waited in the king's antichamber, till he came forth ; it being what she had some time done before, when the queen had desired her, on affairs between them.

As soon as his majesty saw her, he said, *Well, princess, what are the queen's desires to-day ?* With a pleasant air, she answered, *It is an officious curiosity has brought me now, I lately hearing your majesty say, the temper of a person, with the passions, were frequently discovered by the features, especially the look and motion of the eyes : I can shew you some so very odd, that perhaps the particularity may divert you.*

The king, in perfect good humour, continued talking till she had brought him into the gallery which over-looked the gates and place of execution. They were then beginning to fix the halters on some of them ; when *Beatrice* pointing to one who had such a mixture of fear and folly in his countenance (in spite of the compassion incident on those occasions) it was difficult to avoid laughing to see him.

Whilst the king was looking at him, she said, *Does your majesty imagine his genius, when freed from the fright he is now in, could ever rise above a joke, or song ? nor indeed*
has

has any here, in my opinion, the looks of politicians. Poor miserable men, they now severely smart for listening to the crafty wiles of some litigious long-headed monster, that perhaps in a safe retreat is smiling at the mischiefs he has done. Oh, continued she, that your majesty would but search out the source, the envenomed head, from whence these drew their poison, and there let all your indignation and just revenge fall, and in your mercy spare these unhappy men to their wives and children. Here, perceiving the king looked seriously at her, she fell at his feet, proceeding to say, However moved by pity, I may have thus presumed, I have a heart too sincerely grateful for your noble usage to your hostage, not earnestly to interest myself for your glory. Consider, Sire, lest this strict justice be not thought severity; on the other side, reflect what true, what unfeigned vows and prayers the joyed wives and children will offer up to heaven for every blessing on you.

Beatrix waiting in the antichamber, and inticing the king into the gallery, had flown to the queen, who was very solicitous to save them, and resolving to second the princess, was just entered as she had ended the last words. The king, raising the princess, said to the queen, Your little bratrin has pleaded too well, not to succeed: He then gave orders immediately to stop the execution,

cution, repeated all *Beatrix* had said and done, shewing the *queen* the man whose countenance had so divertingly helped the *princess* to save them. Our pity and concern being removed, his grimaces and ridiculous actions of joy filled the place with mirth and laughter.

As soon as a reprieve was cried out, the general shout which rent the air with the excess of their joy, the king taking notice of, said to the *queen*, *These raptures of the people convince us, that you and the princess were in the right; and I will for the future not only believe my little hostage sincere, but trust her judgment, when she tells me she is jealous for my glory.* The king proceeded to say, *The very sight, the solemn preparations, the attentive concern in every looker-on's countenance, had began to move him before the princess spoke; but, pursued he, her well-inforced intercession was irresistible.*

This successful piece of good-nature in the *princess*, so charmed the glad people, after they had brought their fellow-citizens home in safety, annually on the day of their deliverance, a festival is still kept in that city, with songs and dances, in honour of the *princess Beatrix*; the fairest maiden amongst them being chosen, who adorned with garlands and other finery, was to represent

present her, they being portioned at the publick charge; which ceremony continues to this day, and perhaps may till the true story that occasioned it is lost. *Here, said Papaglia, beauteous queen, adieu.*

BOOK VI.

*P*apaglia comes, and having nothing material to acquaint her with, she desires him to proceed in his history of the princeſs de Barnaville.

Continuation of the History of the Princeſs Beatrix de Barnaville.

The *bishop*, ſaid *Papaglia*, told us they admired, and even idolized, ſhe paſſed on to her ſeventeenth year, when ſhe received a letter from her *father*, wherein he let her underſtand, he intended to break with the *king*, would have her ſteal ſecretly from the *court*, and let him know by what methods, that he might be ready, and prepared to receive and aſſiſt her. This was very ſevere, and the firſt ſhock ſhe had met with: ſhe conſulted her *governeſs* and myſelf. On this occaſion I more clearly diſcovered her truly great and admirable genius.

nus. The letter she wrote to her *father* was surprizing; in the most respectful manner she letting him understand, in that particular of her liberty, when he delivered her a *hostage*, he transferred his right in her to the *king*; that she had so great a regard for the honour of a parent, not to have submitted to the severest usage, till with approved justice, she could be freed; though on the contrary, she had met with such noble and generous treatment, she must be guilty of the blackest and most odious ingratitude, not to have the same dutiful and respectful sentiments for the *king*, as himself; she used many reasons to intreat him not to break with his *majesty*; concluding, whatever her sufferings might be from that incensed monarch, she would stay and bear it all, rather than stain his, or her own honour, by such an action. The *princess* received no answer to this letter.

But in less than a month after this, the *king* coming into the *queen's* apartment, with a stern air accosting the *princess*, said, I have just now received advice, that your *father* and the earl of F—— have entered our territories, destroying all before them with fire and sword. *Beatrix*, in extreme confusion, kept her eyes fixed on the ground; his *majesty* looking on her with more softness, said, I blame not you, *unhappy*

happy princess, abandoned by a parent to our resentment, we will still treat you with our wonted kindness, nor shall any of our subjects use you with less regard ; only remember, when we have quelled this rebellion, and have *Renatus's* person in our power, you then employ no solicitations, no means to save his life. At this cutting speech, she burst into tears, and with a low bow withdrew.

The next day she did not appear in the presence. At night the *king* said to the *queen*, Let us go, and comfort *Beatrice*, who, I believe, is frightened with our resentment to her *father* ; when their *majesties* entered, she fell at their feet, intreating their compassion for her, without saying one word of *Renatus*.

The *king* raising her with great mildness, told her, as *Renatus* had by this action lost his right in her, he bid her forget he was her *father*, and believe she should always find in him a parent's fondness : many other good-natured things he said to the same purpose before he went, which was in less than ten days ; she neither in that time, nor on taking leave, made the least mention of *Renatus*.

When the *king* was gone against him, it was observed by all that her gaiety was lost, so great was her concern, tho' the *queen*,
with

with her wonted kindness, ordered all the ladies to endeavour to divert her.

She chose to be much alone, neither letting her *governess*, or myself, know her intentions; and such good intelligence she had from the army, the very night before the engagement she wrote to the *king* a letter, wherein she told *him*, as she believed her *father's* breach of faith had put the sword of success into his hand; she took these moments to return him thanks for his great and truly noble usage of her, for which she assured him, she should ever bear a grateful remembrance; but that now, being conscious her father's fate would force her in decency to leave the court, she begged he would accept of her acknowledgements for his numberless favours, before the bitterness of a parent's fate would oblige her to enclose herself in a monastery for ever.

As *Beatrix* had said, the *king* gained the victory, her *brother* who was in the *battle* encountered the *king* in person, with such fury, that he left marks of his valour on his helmet and other parts of his armour; but being engaged too far from his men, was overborne by numbers and *killed*. The earl of *F* — — fled, and *Renatus*, extremely wounded, was taken prisoner.

All becoming the victor's spoil, after the battle the *king* ordered *Renatus's* papers to be

be brought to him, to see if any of his *subjects* had had correspondence with him, he found amongst them *Beatrix's* letter, which (as has been mentioned) she wrote to her father.

The king who was himself naturally sincere, was so charmed with her sense of his and the *queen's* favours; that he often said, If virtue, greatness of soul, and all that an excellent understanding could urge, had prevailed, *Beatrix* had saved her brother and father from that day's fate; and indeed it had such an effect (with the other he received the night before the battle) that he sent and ordered care should be taken of the *prince*, and bid they should let him understand, his daughter's virtues had prevailed to save him.

This, with *Renatus's* other misfortunes, wrought such an effect on him when he was perfectly recovered, that he let his *majesty* know he desired to end his days in a religious house. Thus, as his younger son died some time past in the *Holy land*, and *Beatrix*, by both her brothers death was become his only heir, he intreated the king she may be settled in his principality; and if he would vouchsafe to take her into his protection, he then should retire, and quit the world with perfect tranquility.

The king, infinitely pleased with this proposal,

posal, often saw the *prince*, who owned to him, had *Beatrix's* letter come before he was too firmly engaged to go back from his word to the *earl*, it had prevented all the slaughters of the last wars between them.

The *king* wrote to the *queen* all that had passed, to the particular of *Beatrix's* letter, sent by her the night before the battle to him, and all he intended should be done in her affairs; bidding her to prepare the *princess* to come and take leave of her *father* before his retirement, and from them both be invested and confirmed in the principality.

The *queen*, who was conscious her husband, from her many personal defects (in spite of her condescensions, and most obliging complaisance in every thing to his will) had a perfect aversion to her, found something in this *pacquet*, and the account he gave of *Beatrix's* letter, that either created or confirmed her in the opinion, that his *majesty* began to have too great a regard for the *princess*; and before she let her know of its arrival, sent, and had some discourse with madam *Santseir*, the purport of which was, to find out who had perswaded her to write to the *king*; but the *governess*, perfectly ignorant both of the letter and the effect it had wrought, soon caused the

queen

queen to be certain it was intirely the *princess's* own doing.

The *queen* then shewing the *parquet* from the *king*, told her she believed *Beatrix* would find great opposition from the chevalier *Jaques de Barnaville*, who was now, after *Renatus*, the first male heir to the *principality*, and had several precedents, that the females had been debared the succession; adding her advice to the *gouverness*, to persuade the *princess* to accept the chevalier for a *husband*, and put an end to the disputes that might arise.

Madame Sansfeir, who comprehended not the *queen's* design, was easily inclined to comply with her desires; the merit of that gentleman very much influencing her: he was indeed extremely brave, generous, and every way accomplished; but *Renatus* and he having had some dispute (concerning lands) he had put himself under the *king's* protection; and this subtle *queen*, from the suspicion she had of her *husband*, persuaded him to claim the *principality*, and ask *Beatrix* in marriage; the last she knew would be the bait would draw him into her plot, he having often declared he had rather be the *princess Beatrix's* husband, than be the greatest monarch that ever did or should rule this terrestrial globe.

When *Beatrix* received this news, with
great

great pleasure she prepared to go to her *father* ; the *queen's* civilities and fondness were increased, she sending to attend on her in her journey, part of her own guards, with the chevalier *Jaques*, who was their captain ; and indeed that gentleman had always behaved to her with such respect, that she had a real regard for him ; and as soon as she came to her *father* she prevailed on him to see the chevalier, assuring him he had chose to attend her, that he might have an opportunity to pay his respects to him.

Renatus, who in earnest had done with the world, this last affair with the loss of his son having made him look back into himself, and create quite another turn of thinking ; being conscious he had been the aggressor, receives the chevalier *Jaques* very friendly, and was perfectly reconciled to him. And the chevalier being sensible how useful the *queen's* interest might be, gave a loose to ambition and love, talked first to *Renatus* of his passion, then laid claim to the *principality*, who refers the affair to the *king* ; but when that *prince* mentioned it, the *king* appeared very much displeased, though every one knew the chevalier was a great favourite, whom he had advanced in an extraordinary manner, beyond

Yond what was usual for persons of his juvenile age.

It was on this occasion (as the *king* has since owned) he found he was a lover, without knowing it, till alarmed with the thought she was to be another's. Many were his reflections ; his aversion to the *queen*, whom he knew to be a deep dissembler of her thoughts, and so great a dissembler, that he has often said, Should she speak her real sentiments, it would be the only means to make him think them not such ; and, added the *bishop*, with this closeness, she was mistress of a consummate subtlety, a very unforgiving and *vindictive* temper, which, joined with her personal infirmities of the *leprosy* and *evil*, made the *king* think of getting a divorce, though he then discovered not his thoughts, permitting the *chevalier* to put in his claim, which went against him, his pretensions being found very weak ; and the just right belonging to the princess *Beatrice* ; the *king* let him understand, if that lady was given in marriage to a subject, he should be the person.

Jaques, whose passion for the *princess* was greater than his ambition, received this repulse with the utmost concern.

The *king* having made a second peace with the *earl*, and settled all in quiet on
that

that part of the borders of his kingdom, he with *Renatus* and *Beatrix* went to their territories, where I saw, said the *bishop*, her father make a resignation of his rights, titles, and dignities to his daughter, and his majesty invest her with them, obliging all the subjects to swear fealty, and do homage to her. She was adorned with a coronet, and rubies of the same fashion *Ermine* wore on the day of her being professed; and if the princess *Beatrix*'s personal charms, lively spirit, and august mein, created love, admiration, and respect, in all that beheld her; yet there was in *Ermine*'s features, such a sweetness, so gentle a composure, with an easy and unaffected delicacy in her air, and angel-like insinuation in her looks, as created in her beholders a tenderness with such warm regards for her exalted virtue, as even raised our ideas above the busy trifling passion of this world, to more elevated and durable bliss. I have since been informed, before *Renatus* retired to his convent, the king and he had a long conversation about the princess, wherein he assured her father of his honourable intentions, (with his designs to get a divorce) which, if denied, or not deemed lawful, he had too great a regard to her not to forbear making the least mention of love: but so little apprehension had he of being refused,

it

it had before been proposed and talked of, but troubles that arose in his kingdom had still prevented his soliciting it; and the *queen* by the assistance of the *king's* brother, had taken care to lay so many artful stops in his way, that nothing had hitherto been done; the *king's* brother hoping, by her barrenness, he, or his sons, might one day reach to the regal dignity.

The *king* brought the *princess* back with him; the *queen* received her with seeming transports, and so very fond, that she could not be a moment without her; and the *king*, who had sent secretly to get the divorce, acted with such discretion, that he never saw her but in the *queen's* presence, or surrounded with her attendants, for tho' in his *majesty's* dominions she had her court, and proper officers besitting a sovereign princess, and tho' it was easy to discern the pleasure he took in her company, he never once hinted to her either his passion or designs.

The *queen* one night, when it was very late, sent to desire to speak with the *princess*; she went to her in her closet, and found her in tears, and before her lay a letter, which she gave her to read; in it was an account of the divorce the *king* was getting, and that he would certainly succeed: while *Beatrice* read it, she fixed her eyes on her

her to observe her looks, and soon perceived she was a perfect stranger to the king's designs.

As soon as the *princess* had finished reading it, she fell into so violent a fit of grief and passion, that it almost strangled her ; then breaking out into complaints, she began to tell how passionately she loved his *majesty*, how observant, how obedient to his commands, and how assisting to him in all his councils, (as indeed by her cunning, said the *bishop*, she had often helped him to get rid of, as well as intangling him in many difficulties,) in terms most pity-moving, represents, how severe her afflictions were, after so many years, to be robbed of her honours (the real grief that touched her) to be separated from, and made an outcast by her *husband*, whom she had always loved and admired, even to adulation, because heaven had afflicted her with illnesses, which in themselves were torments hardly to be supported ; and, continued she, striking her bosom, to compleat and fully make me wretched, this shock, this blow, is to be given me by one I have fondled and loved with a mother's tenderness.

The *princess* has often said, she had so little notion she had any share in this discourse, that she owned her curiosity made her want to know who this rival was. It

it is easy to imagine her surprize, when the *queen* gave her to understand it was herself; and it was as certain a thousand instances of his *majesty's* behaviour, would hardly leave her a doubt of the *queen's* being in the right.

When she began to protest both her innocence and ignorance, the *queen* answered, she knew it, and her only hope was the confidence she had in her virtue; then, leaning on her neck, she bathed her bosom with her tears, carrying her flattery to such a height, as to assure her, the being deprived of her agreeable society, was one of those misfortunes she would fain ward off. *Beatrix*, whose only failing was an excess of generosity, begs she will be composed, saying, she could not believe the *king* would carry it to so great a length; but if he should, she might be assured, no worldly grandeur should be accepted by her at the price of any one's misfortune, or unhappiness, much less her *majesty's*.

When she returned to her apartment, she told her *governess* all that had passed between her and the *queen*, and soon perceived she was better acquainted with the *king's* sentiments than herself; she, in a congratulatory manner, perswading her by no means to oppose the happiness and honour Providence and this monarch designed

her ; saying, how absolutely requisite it was that the *king* should have an heir to his vast dominions : nor did she in this discourse, omit any argument that could tempt her ambition, or lessen her esteem for the *queen* ; endeavouring to inspire her with notions what a blessing the people would esteem it, to have the generous, the pious, and their beloved, and even idolized princess de *Barnaville*, possess the heart and throne of her sovereign.

Beatrice retired, her thoughts employed on what each had said ; she did not want ambition, and found she had yet a severer temptation to struggle with : for, on examining her heart, she perceived it inclined to favour the *king's* passion, had not religion, and compassion for the *queen*, helped her to resist the pleasing ideas, love and ambition were every moment busying and delighting her with. *But adieu, beauteous queen, said she, and vanished.*



B O O K VII.

WHen *Papaglia* came, after he had informed her, that her children were in perfect health; he then said, Unhappy *queen*, I am permitted to let you know of an affair that will cause you some uneasiness; tho' in the end it will be so far from prejudicing, or any way hurting you, it is one of those things, Providence, in his endless chain of causes, has ordained towards the restoration of the *Flazems*: for know, pursued he, *Hetbazele* has not only informed the *governor* of your having a *son* as well as a *daughter*, but also of my visits and predictions. Ah, cried the *queen*, is it possible *Hetbazele* can be so very base! Be not too much alarmed, answered the *fly*, condemn her not overhastily. There are, added he, some unguarded moments, when follies, as well as vices, prevail on the wise and the most virtuous, which has happened in this lady's case, who in her many travels through the antichamber, between you and the *governor*, besides the irresistible harmony of her voice, in the careless disposing her veil, she discovered her fine diamond eyes, which has

had such an influence on him, as frequently to increase his assiduous visits, to know your commands. Ah, said *Iram*, *Sinza* and myself have long suspected it, and lately have observed she was often forcing discourses of him, saying, how very much he was attached to our interest, and indeed by his means, we hear many things which would not please *Maillan* we should be acquainted with : he is, said the *fly*, one of those that would be significant, and a politician, without the solid depth that is requisite ; he hates the tyrant with a heart fast glued to his post ; the complaisance that attends the lover's amorous addresses, has often caused him to melt into tears at *Hetbazele's* complaints of your mighty wrongs and severe sufferings : the lover, the zeal he expresses for the royal *Hazem*, with his despair on the reflection, with what a bloody violence *Maillan* had quite exterminated the race, prevailed on *Hetbazele* to acquaint him with the secret to mitigate his griefs, it would have been pleasant to have known in these moments his cogitations ; his imagination unsettles the state, fancies he and *Nipblodoge* were to do wonderful things : from that minister's gentle regard of your misfortunes, he believing he favours your cause, and rests not till he had told him the important story : but tho' it is certain

Nipblo-

Nipblodoge secretly repents all he has done against your house, he knows mankind and the *governor* too well, to trust, or be in his power ; for which reason he determined immediately to acquaint *Maillan*.

This, that cool politician did with an air of contempt, as supposing all the ladies brains were touched ; but tho' *Maillan* is a *Tenevock*, which attributes all to chance, directed by human policy, not the ghosts of every one his guilty hands had deprived of life, encircling about his *sofa* in the dead of night, could have filled him with greater terror, than this news did.

Guorbalem and *Danredno* are immediately sent for ; the paleness in the latter's countenance, shewed he so feared in spite of his fine reasoning on an Over-ruling Being ; this morning, the midwife (who had also chattered to her companions) was examined, and yet to force more, is tortured ; she relates her opinion with some enlargements, of what passed between her and *Sinza*, where now all their fury and resentment seems to fall.

At these words, the *queen* extremely frightened, said to *Papaglia*, Advise and help me how to save that unhappy lady, my only remaining comfort. He desired *Iram* to call her in ; the satyrical contempt that appeared in her looks on view-

ing him, caused *Papaglia* to smile, and tell her how despicable soever he might seem to be, to the sun-burnt beauties of *Africa*, he was in his own country esteemed a pretty fellow; and, lady, added he, shall now be to you a serviceable one: he then repeating what he before had told *Iram*, acquainted her, that early on the morrow, the *queen* and she would be visited by the three *ministers*, to be examined by them; and unless she feigned herself sick unto death, with the loss of her senses, she would by *Maslan* be used worse than the midwife. At these words *Sinza* trembling, *Papaglia* told her, that her fears would help to make the counterfeited fit appear real. When I am gone, said he to the *queen*, do you alarm your attendants with your concern for her being taken suddenly ill; but, continued he, smiling on *Sinza*, Let not your fears too strongly prevail; the *European* beau assuring you, old as you are, you shall again embrace within your arms, those lovely infants. He then bid the *queen* with unconcern own every thing relating to her children, nor through fear to deny, or fiddle his predictions, except the mark of the wing on the princess's arm; which was the only thing she need caution *Hetbazele* about.

This affair had alarmed the *queen* too
much

much to think of the sequence of madame de Barnaville's history, tho' many times she had with impatience, wished to hear the conclusion.

After *Papaglia* was gone, the queen, as directed by him, calls in *Hetbazele*, who with confusion owns her fault, for which she was sincerely sorry; helps with her wit and cunning, to make both the attendants and governor believe *Sinza* was suddenly taken ill, and out of her wits.

The next day early the queen was informed *Nipblodoge*, *Guorbalem*, and *Danredno* would speak with her; and whatever her heart felt at the sight of those traitors, she received them with a courage worthy her rank.

When they began to enquire, and question her about what *Hetbazele* had told the governor, she answered them, If they had forgot the duty and respect they owed their sovereign's *religi*, in thus presumptuously examining and interrogating her, she too well knew what she owed herself to suffer them; not but, added she, to put an end to these ungentle visits, we do affirm, instructed by a vision, we in our desperate state, permitted our man-child to be put into a little boat, and let down into the river, believing we resigned him to a more merciful foe than *Maillan*.

To this *Danredno* answered, *Maillan* is not thus to be trifled with, or baffled by fabulous whims : therefore, before we part, we must be made acquainted who were aids and assistants ; in these matters it appearing plain, a son has been born ; and with a stern look, proceeded to say, Unless you let us know the full truth, *Sinza* shall first be taken out to taste the rack ; at which *Hetbazele* folding her hands across her breast, with a piteous look, said, Alas, she is already in the pangs of death, and tho' three chambers off, her groans have often reached our ears, since you have been present.

The queen, besides her concern for *Sinza*, touched to the quick at *Danredno's* audaciousness, taking up the discourse, said, No, *Danredno*, heaven will not permit *Maillan*, nor thyself, to hurt one particle of that lady ; tho' the terrible moments in circulating course shall come, when thou, (tho' ignorant) shalt be stretched on the rack, to confess how our daughter was saved, whose mangled bones you so inhumanly triumphed over, fancying they were the last of *Hazem's* race.

Here *Guorbalem*, with a shrug of his shoulders, cried out, This is meer distraction ; and *Nipblodge* taking up the discourse, said, It is plain, the queen in her
mis-

misfortunes, has indulged dreams and fancies, till they have infatuated her senses ; then, added he, let us not trouble her *majesty*, and ourselves, or the dying lady, about these whims, which further to be busy with, will make us the ridicule of all that have common sense.

They departed from the *queen*, relating to *Maillan* every particular : *Nipblodoge* and *Guorbalem* made such a jest of the affair, as even shamed *Maillan* and *Danredno* from further enquiry, or searching into the matter ; not but thus doubting, they often felt pangs, that would draw compassion from the just and innocent mind.

Yet whatever contempt they seemed to have, by whispers, the news flew throughout all *Nutrebia* ; every one inventing strange stories, according to his turn of fancy, or extent of their education and ideas.

But above all, how surprized was *Danredno's* lady, when she heard him relate *Iram's* threats ; she and *Emargb* only knew how probable hereafter it might chance to happen ; what was her concern, and how many were her thoughts about it. As she was a lady truly virtuous, when she reflected on his confusion, deceit, treachery, and the multitude of malicious falsehoods with which he had seduced the people, against

their sovereign ; she trembled for him : tho' a long series of ill usage, had very much cooled the warmth with which she first gave him her hand and heart.

In his perfidiousness to his *king*, he had caused this lady to suffer so severe a part : more fully to understand her character, and the future events, it will be necessary to traverse backwards, beginning with *Jaim Hazem*, the father of *Jathrep Hazem*, who in his youth, was bred in *Pretejan's* court ; and being of a speculative, as well as warlike genius, soon after he returned to his father's court, he obtained leave to travel *incognito*, to visit and observe the different manners and customs, with the government of other nations.

He took with him the generous *Cushman*, *Igabon's* father, and another nobleman ; they were disguised like merchants, with a proper quantity of gold to purchase what they pleased : after they had been in *Egypt*, and viewed all that was curious there, they entered a travelling caravan to go to *Jerusalem*, with other merchants.

It was about the time *Mahometism* began to be terrible to the *christians* : they had not gone many days on their journey, when from the hill they were on, they perceived in the adjacent valley they were to pass, many *Elephants*, with castles on their backs,
 sut-

surrounding one, whose large size, gilded roof, and curious wrought ornaments, made them judge it belonged to the chief; these were guarded by an army of ten thousand soldiers.

They sent spies, who returning informed them it was the *caliph's* daughters of *Egypt* going to *Naiden*, *Sophi* of *Persia*, to whom her father had given her in marriage; the description they gave of her excellent beauty, with a surprizing account of her wit, virtue, and every other perfection, created an irresistible desire in *Jaim* to see her.

Many debates passed with him and the two lords his companions, who did not omit to represent the extravagance of the attempt, the improbability, if not impossibility, of succeeding; but finding their reasons too weak to resist his impetuous desires, they joined with him in the following contrivance.

The *caliph's* and the caravan's people having agreed to travel together some part of the way, the merchant who was let into the secret of this illustrious traveller, and had a wife big with child, first was to pretend she had the longings of a woman in that state, to see the *princess*, and offer to her view some curiosities.

By presents properly managed, they prevailed on *eunuchs* that attended near the

princess to incite in her an inclination to see them ; *Jaim* was dressed in the habit of the merchant's wife, to wait on the *princess* to shew the jewels, while the two nobles and the merchant waited without, with variety of choice things.

The *prince*, who was not tall, and a genteel mein, passed thro' the guards unsuspected ; and indeed his smooth and youthful countenance, without a veil, might long have carried on the deceit.

It is easy to suppose, when he was introduced to the *princess*, he found her surprizingly more lovely than description, or his imagination had formed : every word, action, or motion, and look, increases this amorous *prince's* passion ; and he being naturally of a diverting and gay spirit, on shewing his merchandize, mixed his flattery with so many agreeable turns, and an air of being in earnest, it pleased the *princess* extremely ; and after she had some time looked fixed on him, whispering an *Ethiopian* lady that was near, she began to enquire of what country he was, *Jaim* answering, he was a *Nutrebian Ethiopian*. It is easy to suppose his surprize, when she asked him, if he had ever seen *Jaim Hazem* ? In spite of his quick wit, he could not help discovering a confusion ; however, he soon replied, His sex had prevented

vented him from not being personally acquainted ; not but fame had made her no stranger to many of his actions. The princess *Cadiga*, who had as ready a wit, and as sharp a penetration as her lover, said, *From the manner of your looks, I should have thought you had a more particular interest in that prince, than what hearsay could create.* This still causing his countenance to appear more disordered, he answered, *Pardon me, princess, if I own your observations were just, and are owing to some flatterer's saying. I am so like that prince, I might be taken for his near relation.* *Cadiga* and the *Ethiopian* lady then told him their thoughts were the same, and had made them so curious to know his country ; at the same time, the princess pointing to a little *Indian* cabinet, he there saw the image of himself, with two others, which were the *Caliph* her father, and *Naiden* the sopher.

Cadiga held him so long in discourse about prince *Faim*, he easily perceived *Fame*, in one of her best humours, had lavishly set him out to her : this, before he parted from her, he found was owing to the *Ethiopian* lady, to whom she had whispered, whose brother had been intimate with him in *Pretejan's* court, and from him had learned many of their adventures, with a particular description of his temper, wit, and

and other perfections; she had married an Egyptian, and was, by her husband, a captain of the princess's guard, introduced to attend about her person.

In this conversation she owned, had she had the disposal of herself, of all the princes, whose characters had reached her knowledge, Jaim would have been her choice.

The merchant's wife, in transport falling on her face, at the foot of the sofa on which she sat, said, *Beauteous Cadiga, give me leave to assure you, that prince Jaim, as if fate had bound your names together in the garden of young loves, ever-springing desires and celestial joys, * from the moment he first heard lovely Cadiga mentioned, he languished with the utmost impatience, till his propitious stars blessed him with a view of your bright self; adding, that now there is no difficulty he would not struggle with, nor danger so extream, his courage would not tempt, to obtain her.*

The princess taking this for an extravagant flight in the merchant's wife, to divert her, laughing at her, bid her the next evening come again, with some other things, and not to fail of her credentials, as love's ambassadress from prince Jaim to his nobleman;

* Alluding to the Alcoran.

bleman ; he returned enraptured ; and the next night resolved, if possible, to discover himself : accordingly he went, and after she had viewed some jewels, he looking forward, and seeing her woman waiting, said, he had one, whose lustre would be deemed best in her little alcove ; she rose, followed only by the *Ethiopian* lady.

When he had trifled some time in shewing the jewel, falling on his face at the foot of the *sofa*, he told her, in obedience to her commauds, he had brought this (delivering a letter to her) from prince *Jaim*. *Cadiga* took it, imagining it still an invention to carry on their last discourse, when she had read it, turning to the *Ethiopian* lady, she said, with a smile, *There is something so tender, such pleasing flights, with such an extravagancy of passion, one would think, with his resemblance, she was possessed of a genius as gay and agreeable as his.* The merchant's wife, who moved not from the foot of the *sofa*, solicits the princess, that that she would not let the lover languish in despair, but in pity to his sufferings, give him some hope. *Cadiga* answers, she thinks she can do no less, and bids her assure that prince, he has her esteem ; and of all mankind is the foremost in her favour ; nay, added the *Ethiopian* lady, that is too grave for such a lover as this letter describes ;

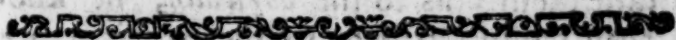
describes ; you can do no less than disappoint the amorous *sophi*, vex *daddy*, delude your *guards*, clime rocks to escape, travel through deserts, and wander into strange lands and unknown seas for such an enchanting hero. Ah, replied *Cadiga*, with a sigh, I should think such fatigues trifles, to recompence a lover of prince *Jaim*'s merit, were his passion equal to what this pretty dealer's wife has described in these few lines.

Here the pretended *dame*, loosening her upper garments, appears in a moment in the dress and person of prince *Jaim*, and at her feet assures her, with all the vows love could invent, his excess of passion, and that immediate death should end his miseries, unless her pity interposed.

The *Ethiopian* lady, in the person of *Jaim*, perceiving the pretended pregnancy of the *merchant's wife* vanished, flies, and shuts the door of the alcove, and then in a low voice, tells *Cadiga*, it is prince *Iram* himself.

Cadiga looked astonished and troubled, and in that moment blamed her indiscreet freedom with the *merchant's wife* ; but no haughty frowns, or angry flashes darting from her eyes, the *Nutrebian* prince pressed his mistress with such success, she faintly objected her obedience to her father, her fears

fears to sully her glory, and the honour of her sex, by flying from her betrothed *husband* : to this the *Ethiopian* lady, who had first raised this flame in her breast, puts her in mind; how often she had begged heaven to deliver her from the *sopbi's* arms; and that her mother, being a *christian*, had instructed her in the same belief; and that now, doubtless, Providence, propitious to her prayers, had inspired prince *Jaim* with such a passion, to be her deliverer.



B O O K VIII.

THE next ensuing year *Papaglia* comes; but most of the conversation which the *queen* and he had together being on what had passed between her and *Maillan's* ministers, with what she could learn from him concerning her children; we shall proceed in the foregoing relation, with the state of *Hazem's* court, before his unhappy overthrow.

Thus encouraged, he made her several visits, under pretence (to amuse her guards) of still shewing her some new curiosities ;
nor

nor was he, or the two noblemen his companions, wanting in various contrivances, how to carry her off from her intended husband.

When one of the camel-drivers having violently beaten a slave for some neglect, he run away, and meeting a troop of Arabians, told them of the princess Cadiga's being sent, by the Caliph from Egypt, with immense treasure, to the *sopbi*; and persuaded them how easy it was, by lying in ambuscade, in the night to surprize and take them; as to the caravan, he knew, they paying tribute to the Arabians, were not to be molested.

These sort of people living altogether on plunder and robberies, conducted and directed by the slave, set on the princess Cadiga's little army in the beginning of the night; and having made a great slaughter, promiscuously killing all that opposed, or lay in their way, they had advanced to the elephants and castles, driving all before them; Cushman, and the other nobleman, with the merchant that waited for Jaim Hazem, who was then with the princess, perceiving the Egyptians fall like corn before the mower's scythe, snatching up arms, opposed him, encouraging and rallying the soldiers to defend themselves;: this a little stopped the Arabian's fury, when the alarm reach-

reaching to *Cadiga's* castle, the *merchant's* wife, tucking up her long garment, and taking a shield on her arm, and sword in her hand, ran amongst them like a flame, destroying all before her : the *tapers* that now and then shot here and there, presenting to them a woman fighting, with such a daring bravery, so encouraged them, that in the end, by the fine valour of *Jaim*, and his companions, they intirely repulsed the *Arabians*.

As the fight had continued most part of the night, tho' the approaching day convinced them they were victors, yet with the *Arabians* flight, they perceived most of their own men and *elephants*, either slain or run away.

The captain who had the command, was in a strange consternation, and declared he did not know which to regret most, the destruction of his army, or the remnant saved by the valour of the *merchant's* wife ; she being publickly known to come out of the *princess's* castle, with the frequent visits she had lately made : he said, he knew it was impossible to be kept a secret from the *Naiden*, and would cause him to reject her with scorn ; and, on the other side, he dreaded as much to return her back to her *father*, with the history and manner of her being saved.

Cadiga

Cadiga too, felt all that a virtuous woman, jealous of her honour, must expect from the censuring world, on such appearances of justly deserving blame.

But *Cushman*, who had designedly made himself imitate the *European* lady's husband, so wrought on him, he entering intirely into prince *Faim's* interest ; he both keeps up the general's discontent and fears of the ill reception he must expect from the *sophi* and her father ; and at the same time perceiving the soldiers were charmed at the courage and invincible valour of the *merchant's wife*, he works on the rest of the commanders to join with him ; and all agree this quality be made known, to chuse prince *Faim* their general, to conduct them where he pleased.

The prince, thus crowned with success equal to his amorous wishes, parting from the caravan, conducts his little army thro' *Arabia Felix*, to the nearest sea, and from thence, in merchants ships, to his kingdom.

On his arrival, he found his presence very necessary, his father having been dead some weeks.

Faim, who was a prince of fine sense, had, from observations of other governments, found the defect in his own, knew the *Nutrebians* to be of a fierce open temper,

Per, and jealous of their neighbours encroachments ; which had caused them to apply altogether to arms, the *Egyptians* having often felt, and dreaded their valour.

King *Jaim*, as soon as he was settled, had care taken to manage it so, that the *Caliph* was reconciled to the marriage of his daughter, peace made, a free trade and commerce to be between the two nations ; those *Egyptians* that came with *Cadiga*, being placed among the people, soon taught the *Nutrebians* many arts, sciences, and trades, they till then were strangers too.

It was surprizing to see in a few years, what a change *peace* and *industry* had made ; the peasant enjoying plenty and delicacy, under roofs, that not half a century past equalled the palaces of their *princes* and *nobles* ; but whatever alteration it made to all that affluence which various merchandizes causes, towards the pleasing and gratifying the senses, there was a fatal ill attended it ; the coarse ground bread, and dried viands, which had fed their ancestors, made them hardy and self-denied ; they fainted not with the sun's scorching heat, nor shivered with the moist damps of the night, when obliged to rest on the ground uncovered with aught, but expanded skies enlightened with starry lamps ; reason, in
her

her native purity, had taught them to do no wrong, and early as *Condace* they had received the *christian* faith; they vexed not their brains with sophistical arguments, but submitted to their pastors, whose piety was answerable to the simplicity of their flocks; they had great courage, and a constancy of mind, that equalled the *Romans*, at the time when their *consuls*, with their own hands, plowed the ground.

But now so great is the change, the *Nutrebians* discover as quick a genius, and as ready an invention, as their subtle neighbours; nor did they become less skilled in the craft and fraud of dealing, deceit, treacherous sharpening, and every sort of wrong, abounding amongst them; their judges too, instead of entering into the justice of their cause, *divert themselves*, and plague their clients, with listening to long harangues, *quibbles*, wrangling, explanation of words and terms; and in every science great pains is taken to make easy things intricate and difficult to be understood; sense is refined to jingling sounds, and wit to empty jests and puns.

And so general is the spreading corruption, the *husband* for gain will barter himself, in the disposal of his *wife's* charms, *parents* and *children* betray each other, let but interest be the tempting bait.

What

What first occasioned this extreme defection from virtue, and caused this evil turn in the *Nutrebians*, was the *Libmacks*, who hated the name of *christian*, with continual and often repeated satires and invectives against the luxury, covetousness, and pride of their pastors, wounding the pure faith, by affirming all sorts of religious worship to be invention and meer craft; that *Tenevock* alone was to be adored, who made every man's will his director, and his prevailing passion his deity.

Like a spreading plague, the infection seizes on the whole; lost is all regard to heaven and religious duties, ever satyrizing all virtue, with principles of justice, and doing no wrong, are sunk into the selfish gratifying all one's desires.

But heaven, who in his appointed time of vengeance, had reserved *Maillan's* and his *father's* ambition, to be the scourge that should bring that guilty nation to destruction; and many are the afflicting sorrows she is to feel, before she can be healed; for *Jaim's* father, ah, the luckless day, he bestowed the beauteous *Eniga* on *Cushman*, the father of *Maillan*, and *Jan* of *Sangriza*.

This country is surrounded by water, and only joins *Egypt* by a neck of land, with whom they have ever had perpetual war;

war ; they wanting not courage, tho' a selfish, sordid people ; and when *Jaim* made peace with the *Egyptians*, he provided for the *Jan* of *Sangria* some towns and lands added to them more fruitful than their own country ; this increasing their wealth and strength, and the heart and desire of all human race being the enlargement of power, they soon became uneasy for more ; and after *Hazem* came to the throne, by messages and embassies, they solicited his assistance to oblige the *Egyptians* to enlarge the bounds of their victories.

Fathrep Hazem, who had considered this affair, and perceived their ambition was like to become troublesome, answered the *Sangrians* messengers, that his *father*, in compassion to their desolate state, had prevailed greatly to the increase of their dominions, with which he thought they ought to be satisfied ; and as to their being uneasy at having the *Egyptians* on their borders, he did not perceive, but if he got them half that country, the other half would still be their hostile neighbours ; taking notice, that while they pleaded their distress in the stile of beggars, they threatened his refusal with the presuming air of conquering victors.

Maillan, who was the *Sangrian's Jan*, took this with the true spirit of a *Tenevock* ;
and

and with indefatigable industry and malice, not only poisons the minds of the *Nutrebians* against their sovereign, but by many artificial falsehoods, persuades *Pretejan*, that *Hazem*, in combination with the *Egyptians*, had designs on his empire; the chief of those he gained to be his engine in this affair, was *Danredno*, a *Libmack*, and an adorer of *Tenevoek*: that lord came young to court, where his smooth address, and the charms of his person, made him the ladies favourite. *Guorbalem* and he contracted so strict a friendship, that the particular amity he had for his lady, seemed to be the bandage that more closely cemented them together, that favourite of his sovereign, soon obtained *Danredno* to be well received.

And he having viewed with amorous eyes, the opulent lands, stately palaces, large gardens, rich tenants, and mighty wealth of *Cushman*, he resolves to fall in love with his only daughter, the valuable *Igeban*; she then attended queen *Iram*, and there was a particular friendship between her and *Guorbalem's* lady; from her praises, and *Danredno's* assiduous addresses, she sucked in love's fatal poisons; but when the young lady's heart was gained, he found it a much more difficult task to prevail on the father, who had an extreme

aversion to all of the *Tenevock* principles, of which *Danredno* was known to be, utterly refusing her to him; and when some of his friends praised him to *Cushman*, taking notice of *Igeban's* refusing every other lover, and that she grew pale and sickly, he declared he had rather see her virgin companions adorn her grave with garlands, than dress her bridal bed for *Danredno*.

Tho' thus slighted, yet determined in his aspiring views, being certain of that fond lady's affections, he seemed to decline all thoughts of her, and courted a *Libmack* lady: he carried this deceit so far as to ask her *parent's* consent, when of a sudden he breaks off, grows melancholly, gets extremely intimate with the *patriarch* of *Nutrebida*, who was a person of more piety than policy; he has many scruples which still the *patriarch* is to get the better of; and at last makes such an extraordinary conversion of him, he is quite changed, despises every worldly pleasure, intending to retire, and live a recluse.

But the *king*, the *queen*, and the whole court, are so charmed with the wondrous change, they intreat, nay force him to stay, that his piety may be an example to the rest. The *king* tells him he wants his counsel, and the virtuous *Igeban* would be a sweet companion, even in those exalted
hours

hours of his devotion; and as *Cushman's* dislike was only on the score of his former opinion, which now being fully removed, he did not question but soon to prevail on her father.

Danredno appears mighty indifferent & owns once that lady's charms had their influence; but now, if aught was to incline him, it was knowing her to be the most virtuous of her sex; that a court life and marriage, had their cares; and though he should withdraw, he hoped heaven would assist his majesty to quell the *Libmack* faction; nor but he owned, to see a race so very wicked, expunged from the face of the earth, was what his zeal made him almost wish to be an assistant in.

This being exactly to the desire of *Hazem*, he became an earnest solicitor to *Igeban's* father, who at last (though with reluctance) is gained; nor did *Igeban* want resentment for his courting the *Libmack* lady; but the queen and *Guorbatem's* wife perswaded her his heart still adoring her, caused him both to perceive the errors of the *Libmacks*, and the other lady's imperfections.

Thus the lovely *Igeban*, the king, and the whole court are ensnared; her beauty and virtue, which might have made the most deserving of mankind happy, are

to be insulted, ridiculed, and trampled on, by the most consummate wickedness that ever nature produced.

After his marriage, he continues his arch hypocrisy, this being but the first step by which he was to climb to the height of prosperous villainy.

No sooner is *Igeban* become his wife, but he begins to be her tormentor, by an exact observation of every word and action; the least imperfection is censured; and to her very virtues, a malicious and evil turn is given. At first, she imputes it to his being over-scrupulous and distasted with every vice, and even pleasure, but from constant observation, she perceives amidst his quick-sighted remarks of her, and others, he is very blind to his own; and it being impossible for him always to be on his guard, she discovers, on many occasions, he pretended to virtues he was not master of.

Thus, tho' her reason often made her distrust, yet blinded by the excess of her passion, on his least appearing tenderness to her, she viewed his faults with a lover's eye, till chance made her acquainted with the guilty freedoms between him and *Guorbalem's* wife, the subtle *Arissan*, the beloved favourite of *Iram*, how miserable in a moment was she made! Is this, (said she to herself) the wise, the pious *Danredno*, to whom,

whom, with unfeigned affection, and every tender thought, that ought to make the marriage state happy, I gave my hand, because my heart was enamoured and charmed with his virtues ; but oh, (pursued that wretched lady,) what a severe change is this ! thou art married, ensnared and sacrificed, to a vicious, subtle fiend. *Arissan's* false friendship too, helps to the imbittering the anguish of her mind.

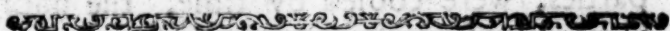
But as her being acquainted with their amour was a secret to them, so she resolves it shall be to the world ; not but now each day that succeeded the other, new occasions offer, that confirm her in his fiend-like disposition, and made her perceive he is as faithless to his sovereign as herself. Long she is irresolute how to act, between her duty to her *husband* and her *prince* : she knew when she revealed his transactions, he would be inevitably lost, and scrupulously fears she alone was the person that ought not to discover him.

Cushman was lately dead, and had settled his immense wealth on *herself* and *children* ; this stock of the wise old *Cushman*, saved *Igeban* from soon following him ; *Danredno* wanting her riches to support him in his wily projects. It was soon after this she discovered a person in secret was sent from *Pretejan*, who knowing *Danredno* was of

Hazem's most private council, wanted from him to learn the certainty of *Hazem's* intentions concerning the *Egyptians*, and whether really he had entered into any scheme against his imperial person and kingdom, as the *Sangrian Jan* had lately endeavoured to persuade them he had. To this *Igeban*, finding her husband had sent an answer quite opposite to the truth, she in a passion upbraids him with treachery, threatening, unless he contradicted what he had said to the messenger, she would acquaint the king with his treasons. But *Danredno*, who was not to be drawn from his designs, bears her company a whole day, in extreme good humour; a favour he had never granted her before since their marriage, and that night, after she had lain some time asleep, had her awaked out of it, and in a violent manner, though big with child, forced into one of her castles, * and conveyed to the province of the *Libmacks*, where she was received, and kept close prisoner by his mother, who every hour insults her with strange, odd, perverse, and malicious falsehoods, on *Hazem*, his queen, and all that were loyal; and more particularly to afflict her, does not spare the memory of her noble father :

* Which are carried on elephants, the manner of travelling in that country.

father : patience is now her only remedy, with which excellent medicine, she passed the time, till again by her husband she was forced back to *Nodnol*, to suckle *Maillan's* new-born daughter ; already has been told the disaster that beset her about the infant, and that now amidst her sorrows, she has the solid pleasure to be the preserver of her beloved sovereign's child.



B O O K IX:

Papaglia, punctual to his promise on the appointed day, visits the queen, and telling her he was not permitted to give her yet any further information of her children ; she desires he would proceed in his history of the princess *Beatrix*, which he does as follows :

The *bishop*, said *Papaglia*, proceeded to tell us, the princess resolving to act with the strictest justice and virtue, on this important affair, sent for me, knowing I was devoted to her as her subject, besides the many favours I had received, who by her interest had got me considerable advancements.

Without naming persons, she gave me

a case of conscience, with a charge to be secret and speedy with my opinion, which she desired might be impartial, to exact justice, as I would answer hereafter for the errors it might cause ; which, according to her commands, I did with my best skill. It happened to be in the *queen's* favour ; for besides many school reasons, I strenuously represented it left a blot on posterity, for when the heat, interest, and passion of parties, were cooled by time, the unprejudiced lookers on were the best judges.

That admirable lady, added the *bishop*, after many struggles, and serious consideration, was determined by my opinion.

No more is her *governess* of her council, nor does she trust her with her thoughts, and though she knew in some degree the *queen's* flattery and dissimulation, yet she imagined in thus abandoning every worldly happiness, she had made too acceptable a sacrifice, not to bind her eternally her friend.

Alas, unhappy lady ! how was it possible, her generous, elevated genius, and pure mind, could have any idea of the low spleen, envenomed malice, and sordid envy, that prevails on the heart of the wicked !

Though from the time she had shewed her the letter concerning the divorce, she
every

every hour was sending for her, and even teasing her with her caresses, yet the *princess* pretending she did not believe the *king* had any such intention, she kept her unacquainted with her thoughts, till she had my opinion ; but then, in this important affair, she assured her *majesty* she would be advised and directed by her, begging her friendship and protection. It is needless to say in return what were her thanks, compliments, and protestations, of being eternally her friend.

The *princess*, who wanted not judgment, was for staying till his *majesty* declared himself, and then hoped, by her virtue and the force of reason, she might prevail on him to lay aside every thought ; but the *queen*, who had laid her scheme quite different, positively affirmed, she knew he was too resolutely bent, not to have recourse to the utmost violence, and assured her, so far would her principality be from protecting her, that the most sacred inclosure, in his kingdom, could not save her from him.

The *princess*, extremely frightened, is confirmed in this opinion by one of her maids, who told her she had heard the *king* and madame *Santfier* talking, and exprels great uneasiness concerning the *queen's* being so busy about her ; and further added, that he should say, while he was *king*, it

should not be in her power to prevent the marriage, whether the *princess* was, or was not willing. This the maid (tho' *Beatrix* since knew she was a creature of, and influenced by the *queen*,) told with such an air of ignorance, as to pretend to express a curiosity to know who this designed husband was ; she the more readily believed the maid, because both the *king* and her *governess* had often warned her to beware of the *queen*.

But that subtle lady, getting her one night in her closet with her confessor, (who was directed by the *queen*) he represents to her, that heaven, who doubtless had a regard to her piety and innate virtue, would not permit her to be guilty of any injustice, either to the *queen*, or the *chevalier de Jaques* ; altho' as to the latter, the *king's* and her father's partiality might turn the scales, yet he had the undoubted right ; and heaven had now pointed out the way for her to do him justice ; that these moments were the crisis of her fate, either by floating in sensuality and worldly delights, and thereby endanger her precious soul, or by acting with the strictest honour and justice to the *queen* and *chevalier*, secure to herself peace of mind, and tread the direct path that leads to future bliss ; he added, she knew he was esteemed the most accomplished gentleman of all H——, in
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chusing him for a husband, her children's right would be indisputable; nor did he omit what has force on all that sex's soft disposition, his passion for her was so great, it would be his destruction, unless she has pity; in the blackest colours he represents the wrongs the *queen* was like to sustain on her account, unless she immediately married the *chevalier de Jaques*.

The *queen*, with feigned tears and solemn imprecations, assures her what care she would take of her affairs, and that she would make it her study to return her admirable friendship, and on every occasion prefer her own, to the *princess's* happiness.

In proper time the *chevalier* is admitted, and after three hours resistance, disputes, and arguments, she is not permitted to part from them, till more by force than even the power of their perswasion, she is married to the *chevalier*; and it being agreed their immediate departure was absolutely necessary, the *queen* gave them letters from herself and the *king's brother*, to the states of *Venice*, to employ the *chevalier* for the present, till the *king's* anger should be appeased.

At their parting, the *queen* put on her hand a ring of value, desiring her to keep it as a pledge of her unchangeable friendship. The *princess* answered, *As such I take*

take it, and thus prize it dearer than my life ; and hope, madam, if this day's action should bring the princess Beatrix to want your assistance, this ring is a witness both to heaven and the world, the claim I have to your friendship and protection. The queen, folding her in her arms, said, *How can you entertain such barbarous thoughts ? No*, added she, *when I forget this instance of your love, and uncommon regard for me, may that one guilt plunge me into all sorts of misery ; live to be insulted as the most ingrate, and sink to the grave ; my name abhorred by men and angels.*

This was the parting between them ; the next evening, she pretending to go to rest earlier than usual, with her maid (whom I have mentioned, and was let into the secret) she packed up her jewels, and as soon as her governess was gone, the chevalier de Barnaville, who waited with horses, carried her away : they travelled all night, and the next day, in short, by the queen having ordered fresh horses at every place, they got soon out of the king's dominions.

I have heard her say, it was a stormy, rainy night ; and if we consider the circumstances (said the *bishop*) of this ill-fated lady, they are extraordinary ; the stories of the amorous fair, venturing through flames, rains, and all sorts of dangers, to
get

get to, and fly with, the beloved hero, is what has often amused the reader ; but here you see the reverse : the most amiable of her sex, by virtue, and friendship's powerful influence, quit the person her heart was inclined to favour, and all the allurements of empire and earthly grandeur, to wander into strange lands unknown.

For though the *chevalier Jaques* had the *queen's* recommendation, she only passed as his lady, neither known or treated as the princess *Beatrix de Barnaville*.

The next morning when she was missing, it is impossible to represent the rage and grief of the *king* ; I speak of this, said the *bishop*, because I was present at many passages ; all her retinue, to myself, were examined, as to what passed about the divorce, as she had either the writing of my opinion with her, or had destroyed it, he made not the least discovery ; and so little occasion had I to mention it, I did not till some time after, know the reasons. As he justly mistrusted the *queen*, there his resentment fell, whom I heard with imprecations, aver she was a perfect stranger to all that the *princess* had acted or done in that affair ; though she pretended to own she had some time past mistrusted she had liked the *chevalier Jaques de Barnaville*, with whom
she

she supposed she was gone ; and for her part she had neither discouraged, nor approved it ; thinking as he was the immediate heir after her, it was the best choice she could make.

As the king was not much inclined to believe her, it left him in doubt ; her government still perswading his majesty she was certain the queen, with religious scruples, had prevailed on her to secrete herself in some monastery.

But as soon as the queen knew the chevalier was arrived at Venice, she took care to have the king convinced of the certainty of the marriage.

This caused the king to fall into a deep melancholly ; I have often heard him say to that prelate, that her loss was insuperable ; and, as if a part of himself was wanting, *I do not wonder*, said he to me, one day, *the poets make the absent lovers in their complaints, to describe the flowers fading, the fields losing their verdure, and the winds their sweet refreshing gales ; for all the diversions my large dominions afford, are quite insipid without de Barnaville ; the gay circle that crouds the presence chamber, has lost its lustre now she is wanting ; in every thing she is missing ; how awkward do they dance ; her swimming motion, easy air, and nimble feet, enliven the musicians harmonious art ; then*
her

her diverting wit, her sincerity, her pleasing complaisance, without any nauseous flattery. Sure virtue never inhabited in so sweet a breast, or womankind was possessed of so many pleasing charms as the princess Beatrix! This, and much more, has he frequently repeated to madame Santseir and myself, with whom he spent many hours, but never knew a conversation, without de Barnaville being named.

Her governess, who was very fond of her, as indeed were all that knew her, on its being confirmed she was married, fell sick, and never after perfectly enjoyed her health; often saying, she blamed only her marrying, who by that means had put it in the queen's power to sully her fame, and have it be thought an amorous fit of youth, while she was certain her virtue and friendship had caused her to make a sacrifice, equal to that of martyrdom.

Nor was she mistaken; for when they arrived at Venice, their affairs not permitting them to appear equal to their dignity, she chose to live *incognito*.

This, madame, said the bishop, (looking on my mother) was the reason you only knew her as the chevalier Jaques de Barnaville's lady, whom you only esteemed a gentleman of fortune; and it is easy to imagine, however obliging and tender her husband

husband was, she passed many tedious hours, in a manner different from those she had enjoyed at court ; but reading with a stricter adherence to her devotion, helps the time to slide away : she had only a son, who died, and *Ermine*, and as she has since told me ; and at first, she often pressed her husband to endeavour by the *queen*, and *king's* brother, to make their peace, and return to their *principality*, till she found his aversion such to have her near the *king*, that she intirely dropped it : the *queen* held a correspondence with them, using her interest to get him advanced, till his death happened.

Amongst his papers, she found a letter from her grace's father, (*said the bishop, pointing to the dutchess,*) that assured him the *king* would have him not only return, but with their *principality* restored, he might have what additional honours he pleased ; only he and the *princess* sometimes to be at court as usual ; this, by his neither shewing her the letter, nor accepting the offer, was a full proof, he esteemed the possession of her above every other honour, or blessing, this life could yield.

When he was dead, she gave up to the states his pension, and sold some of her jewels to satisfy his debts ; and designing to come to *France*, wrote to the *queen*, to acquaint

acquaint her with her affairs, and let her understand she designed to return privately, and consult with her *majesty* how to dispose of herself; to this letter, she had no answer.

On the other side, the *king* had often said, the reason why he had dropt the *divorce*, was, since he was deprived of de *Barnaville*, the sex was too indifferent to him, to chuse another bride, and though above seven years had passed, yet still his lady was the same; and though he generously lamented the fate of that brave gentleman, yet his joy could not be expressed, to think he was again like to see her: he sent a gentleman with his compliments, to assure her, if she would return, she should make her own terms, nor as long as the *queen* lived, would he offer to mention to her a thought of love: but the *queen*, who was neither ignorant of his joy, or the pleasure he took in the hopes of her return, by the interest of the *king's* brother, as she has since confessed, had him seized, his papers taken, and kept a close prisoner till the *king's* death.

In the mean while, as the *princess* was returning to *France*, and was arrived on the borders, one night having some sweetmeats for her collation, the woman of the inn came up to her chamber, and told her,
a little

a little son of her's, while her servant was setting out the things, had taken some of the preserves, and was poisoned: such early notice, and the doctors being sent for, who giving her things proper, her life was saved, though with the loss of her hand and nails; on examination, it was found, her maid (the same that went with her from court) had mistaken, and strewed *Arsenick* instead of *White Sugar*.

Eight weeks it was before she could think of proceeding in her journey, when news came of the *king's* dying suddenly of an apoplectic fit; this was a real concern in regard to his *majesty*, without any apprehensions how severely she was like to suffer by his death.

She at last came to the city, where the now widowed *queen* and court was; the *king's* brother dying about a month before her husband, she was chosen *regent* in the young *king's* minority, who was nephew to the late *king*.

As I have said, her affairs being reduced to a very low-ebb, she had a private lodging took, and writ to the *queen*, to let her know she was come; as it had been designed before between them, it was delivered to madame *Saintmier*, her favourite; but who can form an idea of the unhappy *princess's* concern, when the lady, the
queen's

queen's confidant, that was acquainted with all that had passed between them to the least circumstance, wrote to her, in answer to her letter, that she had both acquainted her majesty of her arrival, and of her letter; but she refused to read it, saying, *She had had too much vexation about that princess, any more to be troubled, or bear her name mentioned.*

A thousand times the poor princess walked backwards and forwards, measuring her strange lodging, reading it over and over again; each syllable was worse than poison, daggers, or death; her brain was wild with a maze of thought, all tending to scenes of distress and despair; ingratitude in fiery letters, seemed every where impressed before her; when she cast her eyes on little *Ermine*, the mother's fondness made her wish to live to guard and protect her innocence; but when she reflected her misfortunes would of course draw her child into low miseries; she wished them both inshrouded in one grave: how often did she think what pity it was the *Arsenick* had not prevailed; but, unhappy lady, said the *bishop*, however astonished and overpowered she might be with this shock, she was to find it but the beginning of afflictions, more truly to wean her from every vain and wavering pleasure, and wholly

wholly turn her thoughts, and all her hopes to more exalted happiness.

A fortnight she continued irresolute and distracted in her thoughts, sometimes she fancies it envy in the lady, that perhaps had not delivered it : to put an end to these doubts, she determined to see and speak with the *queen* ; but, said *Papaglia*, I must leave you : *Ah*, said *Iram*, do not go, till I hear how the *queen* received her. No answer being returned, she looked up, and found he was vanished.

She went to her ladies, relating all that *Papaglia* had acquainted her with. *Het-bazele* is pleased with the *princess's* snipping the paper ; *Sinza* with her saving the prisoners. The *queen*, from the *bishop's* description of her handsome person, lively spirit, and august mein, imagines how she would become the royal chair ; with what happiness, both the *king* and his *subjects*, would enjoy, the one from her personal charms, the other from the example of her virtue and good sense. It might have fell out quite otherwise, said *Sinza* ; for, if beauty, wisdom, and every virtue, could have made *majesty* happy, and their *subjects* dutiful, the *Nutrebians* and you, my royal mistress, would have still enjoyed the great *Hazem* for our sovereign ; but, pursued she, he, charmed with your perfections, and the
pleasing

pleasing contemplations of virtue, the lulled mind waked not with the jealous suspicion that should guard a throne : often, very often, said *Iram*, have I bid him beware both of *Guorbalem* and *Danredno* ; but you see, continued she, tho' he was the fond, the tender husband, how little influence our sex has, when virtue, or wisdom, would endeavour to prevail ; while, on the contrary, into what absurd follies and vices has the ignorant, the simple, with ridiculous cunnings, drawn the *lover* and the *husband* ! often, said *Sinza*, I have thought the same way, and attribute it to their pride of manly and superior understanding, which with jealous envy, opposes the quicker thought, or better judged reason ; while beauty, dressed with folly's childish air of innocence, softens the mind to yield, as the fond mother humours the perverse infant. In such sort of conversation the ladies passed their tedious hours.



BOOK X.

P*Apaglia* comes on the fixed day, and nothing of consequence having happened, *Iram* desires he would finish his relation of the princess *Beatrix de Barnaville*.

Continuation of the History of the Princess Beatrix de Barnaville.

The *bishop* proceeded to tell them, the princess went thro' the well-known apartments into the presence. As soon as the queen saw her, she grew pale, turning her head from her; but she, approaching the chair, said, *Madam, You see at your feet the princess Beatrix de Barnaville, who, without reluctance, in compliance to your request, in a tedious exile, has suffered many injuries from fortune, and now attends in this desolate state, to intreat your majesty, by your often-vowed, never to-be-changed love, you would assist and help me to regain my paternal rights and dignities.*

The queen, with a shy, cold air, looking first at the lady who sent the letter, said, *We thought you had known our mind*
fully

fully by madame La Meir, not to have appeared here, or troubled us thus. Yes, answered the princess, we did receive a letter, but would not wrong your majesty with a thought, it could be with your knowledge; because, if you would be pleased to recollect, (what it is impossible you should forget) by your desire, enforced with floods of tears, I took the husband you proposed; and for your peace and tranquility, we both abandoned our native country, subjects, and dominions: it was then, madam, added she, you tenderly embraced me, and put this ring on my hand, (which she shewed the queen) as a pledge of your eternal friendship and protection, which now I claim, only intreating to be restored to the rights I abandoned for your happiness.

Whatever rash or indiscreet words our good nature might cause us to utter, answered the queen, besides other things, this presumption were enough to cancel all. The princess, quite enraged with this severe treatment, replied, Your majesty is too good to say aught you did not intend; I know your piety and strict honour is such, you would esteem it barbarous in me to entertain such thoughts, after pressing me close to your bosom, with the most solemn vows of your unchangeable friendship and protection, you wished, when you forgot my uncommon love and regard, that that one crime might cause you to be insulted as the
most

*most ingrate, and to be hunted to the grave, and that your name might be abhorred by men and angels. **

One would imagine, answered the queen, with angry and malicious smile, you thought the king were alive, to laugh at, and approve your sharp freedoms : No, madam, replied de Barnaville, did not all around me, (meaning her mourning,) convince me, your majesty's treatment were sufficient ; but I perceive, added she, I have foolishly entrapped myself in friendship's snare ; and must refer our next conference to be decided by the tremendous judge of all ; though perhaps before that time, even high enthroned as you are, a day of bitterness may come, and to your remembrance bring the injured, the ruined princess de Barnaville, at least in the moments when the king of terrors approaches, what would you give for the innocence and integrity that will support me, amidst those severe miseries you alone have loaden me with. Ending these words she withdrew ; no one offering their hand, or the least respect, she returned to her lodgings, there to abandon herself to her griefs.

I think, said Iram, interrupting the story, the queen was very ungrateful, and her usage to the princess cruel ; not that from a virtuous

• All which befel her.

tuous mind I should have expected she could have loved her ; for whatsoever that lady's perfections, or sufferings, might be on her score ; yet each regard the king shewed her, must create her aversion. And in weak minds, when they feel themselves hurt or vexed, their passion never lets them reflect whether the injury be by design or chance ; but though, continued Iram, in that surprizing conversation between her and the queen, they might omit their respects, yet doubtless, on the knowledge of her arrival, she had many friends and visitors, which her former beneficence and generosity had made her.

The bishop, replied Papaglia, related quite otherwise ; for when she was withdrawn, the queen's malice which was not yet satiated, pretending to be very angry at her presumption, let them understand, whoever would be intitled to her favour, must shew no regard to that *princess*, which had such a general effect to whomsoever that lady sent, or went, if they were not rude, yet their cold, and frozen airs, quite chilled and killed her hopes ; and tho' she remained some time in that city where the court was, her apartments were as vacant as the most desolate cave in barren wilds. She applied to the then acting ministers, laying in her claim to her principality, but was answered, the affair was of too

great consequence for them to meddle with, and she must address the *queen*, or wait till his *majesty* was of age.

One evening, finding herself indisposed, she went to bed earlier than usual; in the morning when she expected her women to attend about her person, she was told, that having some days before sent away her things, about twelve o'clock she went herself: the *princess* some time past had observed she behaved with strange insolence; but judge her concern, when rising and examining her things, she found her box of jewels and money missing: she had now nothing on earth left to support her.

The first thing she did was to send to the *Bailiff* or *Provost* of the city, which happened to be the person whose countenance she had so divertingly taken notice of to the *king*, when she saved the seditious rebels lives.

Her servant that went, being ordered to say he was sent from the *princess de Barnaville*, to desire the *Provost* would be so obliging to come to her, and consult what means were to be taken to have her jewels stopped, if offered to be sold, with search to be made for the finding and securing her servant.

The man waited till his patience was exercised, and made him press earnestly for
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an answer ; at last he was admitted into the presence of this mighty magistrate, who, lolling in his easy-chair, with a hoarse, loud voice, startling as a cannon shot, asked him his business, which the servant acquainting him with, after he had some time stroked his beard, frowned, and looked thoughtful, he said the princess de *Barnaville*, I think I have heard of her ; she is a great observer of countenances : but give my service to her, and tell her, she has now no king to make merry with the oddness of mine, and so it will be needless for her to see me. The servant provoked, as not used to have his *princess's* messages answered in that manner, in a grumbling muttering way said, it was a pity she had ever diverted the king with his, but left him to extend the string to its utmost length, which set this magistrate in so blustering a storm, he was glad to make use of his heels, and return to his lady. Whether, said the *bishop*, this behaviour of the *Protest*, was owing to his natural disposition, or directed by the *queen*, is uncertain.

In this desolate state, racked and tortured which way to help herself, she remembered the lady abbess of the convent of —, who having had some disputes about a considerable parcel of land, which she prevailed on the king to yield her up ;

besides many other favours she had done, both for her and the other religious ladies of that house. She wrote to her, acquainting her with her misfortunes ; adding the loss she had sustained by her maid's robbing her, had reduced her to desire she would receive her and her daughter, till some more favourable turn might happen in her affairs. To this she had the abbess's answer, that she had very indifferent means to accommodate her with, yet if she would petition the *queen* to receive her, she should not oppose it ; is surprized at her spirit ; thinks she ought to ask God, and her *majesty*, pardon ; nor did her pious zeal stop here, putting her in mind of her vanities, every action of her life is condemned, as having done something amiss, which had doubtless drawn down this heavy misfortune upon her ; concluding with letting her understand, it was thought by most, the loss of her jewels was a farce, acted between her and her maid.

This epistle of the *abbess's* she esteemed so extravagant, it rather diverted than vexed her ; and as she was a lady of excellent understanding, caused her to reflect how hard it is to subdue the evil dispositions of our nature, when even those who had chose for the pure love of heaven, to abandon the world, and voluntarily suffer severe austerities, could thus condescend to flatter successful vices, and forget how few years had

had past, since that very lady had made *elogiums* both in prose and verse extolling to the clouds those very actions of the *princess*, she now exclaims against as terrible faults.

This usage of the *abbess* made her resolve to retire from the city, and conceal her rank as the princess de *Barnaville*, and knowing she had not wherewithal to support even that private manner she lived in, she discharged all her servants, concealed herself in a mean lodging, only letting a relation of the count your father know where she was to be found, who thought her rank not above that of the *chevalier's* widow ; nor could she have even done this, had not she found the ring the *queen* gave her, which, in a rage she had thrown aside among some trifles, and by that means escaped the maid ; and tho' she did fine needle-work to help to support herself and daughter, she was reduced to the last bit of gold, when the count your father found her.

When the *bishop* had ended, I was so angry with that *queen*, I wanted thunderbolts to have struck her, and all she had influenced ; my mother, ashamed of her past behaviour, said the *bishop's* relation of the *princess's* misfortunes had given her the horrors : but I asking him how it happened, that he, when she arrived, neither waited on her, nor she sent to him, he told

us, knowing he was no favourite of the queen's, when the king died, he retired to his *bishoprick*, which made him an intire stranger to her affairs, till she settled in that country.

The *dutchess* then taking up the discourse, said, As she believed this long relation had tired my *lord bishop*, she would proceed to finish some passages that had happened since she had been amongst them, as worthy hearing as the past ; but before I begin, said she, I cannot help taking notice, how very wrong and ill-judged it is, either to listen to, or regard characters from inferiors or domesticks ; some by interest of their own, or else envy, joined with ignorance, and their fancied-witty sneers, too frequently blacken, and give a false idea of most they meddle with, and has doubtless been the occasion of many worthy persons sinking under their distresses, whose virtue, sense, and tried experience, (if known while they received our assistance) would have helped us to pass the long hours in conversations that would have improved the understanding, and raised our ideas to a grandeur of mind worthy our high station ; which, on the contrary, is often trifled away with them in idle chit-chat. This, said she, happened to be the case of the *princess*, on seeing her
at

at church, in spite of her plain dress, there was something in her that drew my attention, while *Ermine*, by her side, appeared with the charms and blooming delicacy of a little cherubim. I ordered enquiry to be made who she was, and was informed, that some affairs between her and the count de *L* — had brought her into that country ; that at first she was extremely well received by that family, till they found her a whimsical, vain creature, mad with pride, on pretence of being a gentlewoman of an ancient family.

This cured all desire of knowing any more of her, till one *Lent*, at the sermon of a famous *preacher*, the *bishop*, my family, and a crowded congregation, being at church, I saw his eyes fixed on de *Barnaville*, with such a concern and troubled emotion in his looks, I could not help thinking they were created by something very uncommon. My opinion was confirmed, when after the service was ended, he went himself to the place where she was, and accosting her with the utmost respect, there passed a good deal of talk between them : I further observing she received his regards with an easy air, as used to it, and her due, which raised my curiosity to that degree, that as soon as he was disengaged, I sent to desire to speak with him. My

first question was, to ask if he knew that gentlewoman before she came into our country? *Yes, Madam*, replied he, *I did, and you will be surprized when I shall tell you who she is; tho' by her I am enjoined to a general secrecy; but I will not*, continued he, *deprive a person of your worth, the knowledge of such extraordinary things, with the vicissitudes and turns of fate that have be'el that unhappy lady, who is no less than the princess Beatrix de Barnaville.*

The wonders I had heard of her from my father, and indeed all that knew the count at that time, made me desire of him to have leave that moment to wait on her; he told me he intended himself to go to her as soon as he was parted from me: accordingly, he visited her with my compliments, and the next day I had the pleasure to see her, and can only say I was charmed with her easy ingenious behaviour; from that time we were intimate friends, I had from herself a relation of all the *bishop* has mentioned, with many other diverting circumstances, which together with her just, uncommon remarks, and admirable good sense, she opened and enlarged my understanding to quite another way of thinking than I should have had, had I not known that *princess*, I offered her all in my power, intreating she would accept of one of our castles

castles to live in, or at least of an apartment, with attendance befitting her: but tho' I often, and many times, extremely pressed it, I could never prevail; for besides several other objections, she said she was certain should the *queen* have the least hint of my regard for her, it would create her displeasure to that degree, as might terminate in the destruction of our house. All I could prevail on her, was sometimes to let her daughter be with me, for the advantage of being acquainted with the world and seeing variety of company; as you know, said the *dutchess*, *Ermine* was often with me, though the natural parts of that young lady were very good, yet it was surprizing to see what advantages she had received from such an admirable *tutorefs* as her mother, who had by perswasion, and other arts, made her eager to be perfect in every improvement proper for her sex: and though she had a sprightly wit, and an agreeable turn of humour, she fell into no ridiculing flights, or satyrical remarks on her acquaintance; but above all, *continued she*, I never saw a person so young, have such a government of her passions, she not permitting herself to indulge a wish that was not consistent with the strictest virtue, honour, and reason; and though, said the *dutchess*, looking at me, the *princess*,

cess, and myself, amidst her crowd of lovers, we observed she inclined most to favour you; yet so exact a guard did she keep on her heart, it never betrayed her to one indiscretion; nor was you much less in the mother's esteem, till your running into publick amusements before you had placed your father in his tomb, and hunted the ladies with your *bear*; not but your letters and apologies by your good *steward*, would soften the mother to pardon all, had not *Ermine* been determined.

But now I must leave them, said she, to take a little view of the court and *queen*, before I can conclude with madame de *Barnaville*. You all know about four years are passed, since the *queen*, resigning the regency, received from the *king* publick thanks, with compliments for her wise and just administration in his *minority*; the council, who all were at her command, perswaded him as yet to leave the management of most to her, till time and experience should make affairs easy, and more familiar to him.

This, by the gay young monarch, was easily granted; and thus, a second time she grasps the power, and having the *king's* name to screen her actions, only her creatures are employed, and none suffered to be about the *king* but her spies; and her long,
unin-

uninterrupted success had raised her to that daring, that by degrees, not the meanest subject in the kingdom had less command, or direction of affairs than he ; this he perceives, and complains of, but to whom ? either they are attached intirely to her, or else are unable to break her strong enchantments, and disentangle him.

But as nature, in every production, has her growth, fulness, and decays, to the minute of its dissolution, so in human affairs, there are a chain of accidents that succeed each other to the appointed end, still more rising to supply their place ; and now the time was come, that the princess de *Barnaville's* wrongs, tho' at that distance of time and place, were to strike her home, and draw on her, all those misfortunes she had wished might attend ingratitude like her's ; for the *duke* my husband, who from the *bishop* and *princess* had heard to the full her severe treatment of that lady, with other transactions that discovered the same ugly turn, being about fifteen months ago, obliged on some affairs, to go to court, the *king* complains to him as he had done to others, how strangely all was acted ; and that in his whole kingdom, he had not one faithful subject that dared to be his friend. This, tho' the *duke* heard with the utmost concern, (as knowing her ways bet-
ter

ter than his *majesty*) he only then desired him never to mention the least tittle of what he had said to him, to any one ; and with a little longer patience, wait till some others were by him founded ; he perceived the *king* acted with the caution he advised. Here the *fly* disappears.

Iram to her ladies having recounted *Papaglia's* history of the *queen's* management of affairs, told them that she longed to hear how the young *king* disentangled himself from her artful schemes, and as soon as *Papaglia* comes, desired he would proceed in his relation ; which he does, by saying, a few days after the count *le B—*'s father being dead, he petitioned the *king* to grant him the post his father held, which his *majesty* does ; but when the *count* had thought himself secure of it, he found it given to another : the *king* went immediately to the *queen* to know the reason, who, instead of answering him, began to tell him how angry she was with the *count*, understanding he had taken great liberties, and talked very disrespectfully of his *majesty*, which was a crime she told him, if he had the good-nature to *excuse*, she could not *pardon*. But the *king* letting her know he thought she had been misinformed, with a contemptible, grave smile, as pitying his credulity, she looking at the marquis *de la Roan*, said, *This nobleman, if his friendship to the count*
did

did not keep him silent, could inform you otherwise. The *marquis* offering to speak, and declare both his own ignorance, and he believed the count's innocence, madame *La Meir*, whom you have heard was the queen's favourite, and a near relation of the *marquis's* interrupting him, said, *We know your honour, and that tho' you severely reprov'd him for that very fault, yet now that you think his interest is like to suffer, you would not, I believe, let racks force the truth from you.* The *marquis*, quite surprized, began afresh to vindicate the count, when the queen, with her continued gravity, preventing him from speaking, in an expostulating and reasoning *barangue*, represents to him, the heinous crime of concealing the count's faults, and by that means deluding and betraying his majesty into a confidence and trust: as she took care to make this discourse long, to prevent the *marquis* from speaking, the king vexed left her abruptly. After he was gone, she went on in the same sort of talk, only with a keener edge; she would have perswaded him, that the count *le B* — had been as free with his character as with his prince's; and he finding it was impossible to say a word in the count's defence, withdrew.

In private, when he asks madame *La Meir*, what the queen's aims were, she only laughs, tells him he is too
dull

dull of apprehension to be a *courtier* ; and that now, if he would make use of his *senses*, fortune had given him an opportunity to be what he *pleased*.

This made him very thoughtful ; he had come to *court* in hopes his *cousin's* interest might be of use to him, but had too much virtue and sense of honour, to think of gaining preferment by such means.

The next morning receiving a challenge from the *count*, he is still in a greater perplexity ; believing, if he declined the duel, by telling the truth, it would be esteemed cowardice in him ; and not caring to trust to his judgment in an affair of this consequence, he consults the *duke*, acquainting him with every particular.

The *duke*, from his knowledge of the *queen*, was inclined to believe him, and desiring him to keep his chamber three or four hours, assuring him he may depend on him for the care of his honour ; he went to the *king*, whom he informs of the whole affair, telling him perhaps this matter, if rightly managed, may be of use to a design he had formed for his *majesty's* service ; the *king* having heard all that my *husband* proposed, in *raptures* stiles him his *father*, and *deliverer*.

It was agreed, the *marquis* should accept the challenge, and meet the *count*,
but

but that their fighting should be prevented by the interposition of friends, while the *marquis* seeming to give into all the *queen* had said, the *king* should pretend to believe him, and the count de B ——— withdraw from *court*, as in disgrace.

This being what the *queen* wanted, the *marquis* is, by his *cousin's* interest, entered the *cabal*, madame *La Meir* soon letting him know the only objection the *queen* had to the *count*, was his not addressing her, but the *king*.

This *gentleman* being absolutely directed by the *king* and *duke*, is by them ordered to redouble his assiduity and complaisance to both the *queen* and his *cousin*; she is each day more and more open to him, and he very quickly got to be informed of their greatest and most important secrets; she acquainting him by what mean arts this lady had so long, in spite of her husband's aversion to her, and all other oppositions, been busy in affairs, and lastly had intirely got the *reins* of the government into her hands. In the first place, said madame *La Meir*, no one has been a greater humbler of the nobility, than this wise *queen*, who has taken care to create such *beats* and *animosities* amongst them, perhaps ages to come will not be able to *cool*, but with each other's *destruction*: and most of them, added she,
by

by such trifling beginnings as this between *you* and the *count*. On the *clergy* she fawns, finding many of them useful to her *purposes*; and those who are so weak as to be *scrupulous*, she leaves to their *poverty* and *beads*. She has done some publick acts of *charity* and *beneficence* to please the populace; and to let him see the great confidence she has in him, she assures him, should the *king* offer to express any dislike to her, all the officers, and by consequence the *army*, were at her devotion; and, added she, you know the young *king* is hot, and it will be easy to *provoke* him into passion, that with proper turns, and well-managed inventions, may give the nation a *notion* that he is delirious, and unfit to govern; when we have once accomplished this, continued madame *La Meir*, I will answer she will never let him be in his *senses* as long as *she* lives.

The *marquis* astonished at the contrivances of these *daring women*, faithfully related to the *king* and *duke* all he at times got from her; and at last, by the aforesaid lady's mediation, and the *queen's* approving of his management in the affair of the count de *B* — she permits him to get into favour with the *king*, on the condition and terms of being in every thing directed by her. This was what both the *king* and my
husband

husband wanted, said the *dutchess*, that without *suspicion* of spies, they might correspond; and so cautious they were of giving her jealousy any alarm, all their resolutions and councils were by the *marquis* settled between them: they were too *conscious*, as madame *La Meir* had said, most of the officers being raised from the dregs of the people, were intirely her's; for which reason, though she had often *pretended* to solicit the *duke* to stay at court and assist her in the management of affairs, he, on the other hand, lets her understand, he is not to be drawn from a country life. The *marquis* proposes to madame *La Meir* to persuade the *queen* to give him a commission from the *king*, to raise some fresh men out of his province to recruit the soldiers that guarded some of the frontiers; which she complying with, he with the utmost expedition got it done, chusing those that were proper for their design, which was to seize the *queen*, and the place of her confinement to be kept a *secret*.

This was put in execution, and the count de B ——— who had not been idle on his part, had, as well as the *duke*, raised a considerable number of soldiers for the *king*. In the close of the evening, on changing the guards, the *king* entered with the *count* into her apartment, and having
both

both her, and madame *La Meir*, put into chairs, are carried to the convent where my *lord bishop's* sister was *abbess*. This place was chosen by the *duke*, as knowing by her brother's means she could have no influence ; a coach-full of her attendants, the most *suspected*, were sent in publick to the royal prison ; not but this caution was needless, for her friends, if she had any, were too much astonished and surprized to act any thing in her defence.

While the count de *B* ——— took care of the *queen*, the *duke's* soldiers were placed about the palace to guard the *king*, and the next day by proclamation, except some few who were secured that night, all things were to remain in quiet till further orders.

Thus was this lady taken in the fulness of her arrogance and crimes ; and so far was any one from appearing to assist her, that the general voice was employed in *accusations* and bitter *invektives* against her. She and madame *La Meir* were separated ; the last, in hopes of favour, was, by the *marquis* prevailed on to make a confession of *strange* and *horrid* things transacted by that lady ; but, pursued the *dutchess*, I shall not trouble you with the repetition of aught but what relates to the princess de *Barnaville*. Madame *La Meir* owning, that tho' she *queen* had long before the battle between

tween the *king* and *Renatus*, perceived his great liking to *Beatrix*, yet what gave her the first alarm, was the *princess* becoming heiress to the *principality*, by which means she feared in that alliance, the uniting the *principality* to the crown, would be as acceptable to the people, as the lady was to their sovereign; and, added she, as the *queen* had a peculiar skill in discerning the *foibles* in each different turn of temper, she found in the *princess*, what she called an excess of vain generosity, which she said she would take care to *swell* and *puff* up like a bladder to her own *destruction*. And that, tho' she saw the *princess's* virtue, with her friendship for her, declined being so great a monarch's bride, not contented with less than her *ruin*, she bribed *Beatrix's* maid, to frighten her with the invention of her hearing the *king* threatened *violence*: it was by her orders the *arsenick* was given to *poison* her, and also by her direction the maid *robbed* her.

Madame *La Meir* further informed the *marquis*, that the *lady abbess*, mentioned by my *lord bishop*, sending to ask leave to receive the *princess*, she being with her in her closet when the letter came, she ordering her to answer it, said, now to shew you what is esteemed *virtue* and *vice* are only terms, and the gloss the ingenious give them,
you

you shall see we will set out her most amiable perfections, and intrinsic worth, as vain *follies*, and enormous *faults*. As for example, her compassion and zeal to help the *distressed*, a busy officious boldness unbecoming her sex's *modesty*; the innocent and agreeable manner of engaging the *king*, tho' often for our service, and at our *bidding*, shocking wantonness; the running away with the chevalier *Jaques*, a full *completion* of all her other follies, and what she might rationally *expect* would bring all those misfortunes on her which since have befallen her; nor did we omit, said that lady, to sting her *pride* for her presumptuous discourse to the *queen*.

All which was expressed in so pious a style, that perhaps the *lady abbess* herself, blinded by her *interest*, mistook our glaring *brass* for the lustre of the pure *ore*; not but, added madame *Le Meir*, in spite of her hunting of that lady in so severe a manner, in one *point* she missed her aim, which was to force her, by her extreme distresses, to apply to her, *laying* all the blame on her own ill conduct, ask pardon, and extol her goodness. She continued to say what became of that unhappy *princess*, she did not know; but then, bursting into tears, added, alas, how exactly the hour of anguish and horror fallen on us, she *pronounced*

ced against the *queen* ; and indeed, how often, how very often, in the fulness and height of our prosperity, have I wished for that innocency and integrity, that must, like a guardian-angel, support and help her in the utmost *extremity*. On the contrary, said she, looking at the *marquis*, ever let this scene of *wretched me*, be a *memorandum* to arm you, that tho' you should be oppressed with every misfortune, the afflicting hand of heaven lays on mortals, whilst blessed with a clear, untainted mind, what a superior happiness you enjoy, compared to that the *queen* and I now suffer, who tho' we dread the offended wrath divine, may shut the gates of mercy against us, unless softened by *repentance* equal to our hardened *crimes* ; yet all our faint attempts are lost in wild *distractions*, that tend to utter despair.

And last of all, she owns the *king's* brother being dead, the *queen* having formed her cabal, laying her icheme to be chosen *regent*, so much she dreaded the *king* and the *princess's* meeting, she to prevent it, poisoned him by a *nosegay* she gave him to smell at.

When the *marquis* brought this confession, it was considered what they should do with the *queen* ; her *rank*, as *daughter* and *wife* of a *king*, made them unwilling

to expose her publicly ; yet the *murder* of her *husband* and her *sovereign*, was a crime of too high a nature, to pass unpunished, and they having full proof of the offence, had her privately tried, and condemned.

As to the *queen*, there was no subtle turn, evasion, or equivocation she did not try, changing into all sorts of *tempers* and *behaviour* that could deceive, flatter, fright, or move pity, when she was condemned, nothing ever discovered *so low*, or mean a spirit, fawning on all, with submissions that even descended to ridiculous ; and so great was her *dread* of death, she would invent frivolous pretences to be spared a day, and at last an *hour*, sometimes expressing great sorrow, and the next moment studying some new mischief, to involve the *king* and his subjects in endless discontent.

As these things happened, I informed the *princess* of each passage, and so admirably had she conquered all resentment, that she wrote herself to the *duke* to intreat he would soften the *king*, to have compassion on her : but when she heard the horrid stroke, concerning the late *king's* death, she remained several minutes *silent* and *astonished*, then said, *How severely have I taken myself to task, for sometimes giving way to such a thought !* adding, that she had no more

to say, but to beg of heaven to give her a right sense of her *offences* before the axe fell; of whom I must say, added she, ho'the *queen* had a ready wit, a quick, busy, contriving brain, yet she owed her success more to her indefatigable, restless eagerness in pursuing whatever she desired, than to a solid judgment, or depth of understanding, the want of which has doubtless occasioned her running into such terrible *extremes*.

It was about this time, pursued the *dutchess*, looking at me, what happened at the *milliner's*, causing the *princess* to ask justice of his *majesty* : her whole story was by the *duke* told him, he at the same time shewing *Ermine's* picture, he viewed it over and over again, owning he never saw sweeter features, or a more agreeable air : this with her character, and the strict modesty that had forced her to take so violent a *leap*, wrought so on our *young monarch*, that with warmth he ordered exact justice to be executed on all the offenders, inviting both the *ladies* to court, assuring the *princess*, that as soon as she should appear to lay in her claim, full justice should be done her, and ample restitution made her of all her *rights* and *dignities*. This the *duke* wrote to me, very much pressing their immediate going to court, he being of opinion that the
charms

charms and perfections of the daughter, would fix her on the same *throne* her mother's virtues had refused; she further told us, when she carried the *duke's* letter to the *princess* and her *daughter*, the young *lady* was so averse to every thought of a court-life; no argument or persuasion of her mother, nor of mine, said the *dutchess*, could prevail, or shake the resolution she had taken to quit the world, by retiring into a *monastery*. How sweetly, pursued that lady, did she reason on her mother's past misfortunes; and on speaking of the *queen*, she told us she was once *innocent*, till tempted by yielding to some unwarrantable *action*, which succeeding to her wishes, ambition and thirst of power had so intoxicated her senses, there was no extream of ill she had not plunged herself in; saying *Ermine* concluded with telling them she would not trust herself amidst such temptations, on her knees intreating her mother that she might take the *veil*. You know, said the *dutchess*, looking at me, it was not in all our powers to prevent that *lady's* determined resolution.

The morning she was professed, when she was ready to go into the church, on taking leave of her mother, the *princess*, without having power to speak, burst into tears, and

and contrary to what we expected, would not stay to see the ceremony.

The next day, said the *dutchess*, when I went to see her, I found her extremely ill: she told me her *daughtr* had taught her, by her firmness of mind, what all her misfortunes could not; no, added she, not all my many and tedious sufferings, nor my constant endeavours to arm my mind with patience, could bring me to that contempt of the world, which she in such early youth has shewn.

Here *Papaglia* finishing the history of the princess *Beatrice de Barnaville*, he said to *Iram*, You see, madam, how naturally the parents virtues are rewarded, or their vices punished in their children. In *Ermine's* education, her mother, in her young mind, implanted such glorious seeds of virtue, with what strength, and vigour of spirit, did they cause her to act, when reason began to dictate! while I, a poor wavering thing, by habit used to indulge myself, tho' I was every moment convinced of my errors, never had power over one resolution.

Iram asked him, what were the sentiments of the countess his mother concerning the princess's unhappy adventures with the queen; oh, answered the fly, it was then become the fashion again, extravagantly to admire the princess *de Barnaville*, the king

having given orders she should be *interred* with the utmost *grandeur*.

Several of the chief officers come from her *principality* to attend and pay their last respects to her *manes*, the whole *clergy* and *nobility* of the province assisting; the *dutchess* was *mourner*, and I, by *Ermine's* permission, had the honour to support her, and affirm no real *son* ever shed sincerer *tears* at a *mother's* grave, than those that fell from me then.

I was also present when *Ermine* at the grate, received the *nobleman's* compliment of *condolance* from the *king*, and the confirmation of all the *privileges* he had granted to the *convent*, in regard to her, and the memory of the *princess* her mother; she was *pale*, and thinner than when I saw her last. She returned her acknowledgment and thanks to his *majesty*, as she did every thing with the sweetest decency.

Count de L. — 's Story continued.

WHEN all these affairs were over, by the persuasion of my friends to conquer my passion, and endeavour to expunge intirely the idea and all thoughts of a lady. I went to the city, where the court resided, and as study was my aversion, being of too lazy, if not effeminate a disposition, to follow martial exercises, or amusements of a rougher sort, I loitered away my time, employing my

my thoughts about no earthly thing, worth a rational creature's notice.

When I was before at this city, I had sometimes visited madame *la Rotulou*, an acquaintance of *Rapsal's*; but what now inclined me most to see her, was remembering some *hints* from her no way to his advantage.

She received me with an air that convinced me my visit was not disagreeable to her; we soon became very intimate friends; from her I had a very *worthless* character of *Rapsal*; she had heard my adventures with *Ermine*, was a great admirer of the *princess* and her daughter, though in a gentle way, she let me understand, she thought they acted with too *stoical a severity* to me. She had been of the rank of the handsome, without being thought so cruel to the enamoured lover, as to put him to the trouble of complaining of her severity either in *prose or verse*.

But now, in spite of art, or all the advantages of dress, one could discern madam *Time's* deep-laid touches, who had also plentifully be-sprinkled *lilies* amidst her jetty locks. She was of a gay temper, tho' often a melancholly overcast her countenance; and in her eyes might be seen an absence of mind which of a sudden she would rouse from, as conscious of being

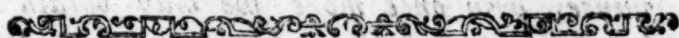
observed; this, with *hints* cautiously dropt, caused me to think her husband the *worst* of his kind, and she the most *patient* of wives; and perhaps, said *Papaglia*, what you, great *queen*, may think very strange, tho' at my first acquaintance I considered her in the character of a *parent*, before I had known her a month, I began to like her as a *mistress*. It is true, this odd sort of love-fit of mine took its rise from imagining she had discovered peculiar charms in me, all her behaviour expressed such regards as often seemingly to suppress many tenderesses and obligations, that accidentally *fell* from her: thus vainly believing she was desperately in love with me, I found I was no way inclined to be ungrateful.

To carry on our intimacy, without giving the world or her husband any suspicions, my mother, who came to town when I did, I brought acquainted with her, it being agreed between us I should pretend to make love to mademoiselle *Molene*, the young kinswoman the *countess* would have had me formerly married, in each of *Ermine*.

The girl was not by nature ugly, but had been educated in such an *empty way*, her mind was as vacant to all that was rational, as the sandy deserts of *Africa* are of every sort of production. I knew she

pitched

pitched on this young *thing*, because she found I had an aversion to her ; the desire my mother had of marrying me to that lady being the chief cause of her opposing my love to *Ermine* ; but, added he, I must now be gone. He disappeared; and the queen to her faithful *Sinza*, and *Hetbazele*, relates every particular.



B O O K XI.

ANother year was fled on *time's* even wings, only six days remaining, to that on which the queen expected a visit from *Papaglia*, when one of the twenty ladies the *usurper* had ordered to attend this captive queen, laid at her feet a writing which, after she was withdrawn, *Iram* ordering to be taken up, and read to her by *Sinza*, in the following words.

Arifan to Queen *Iram*.

ALL thy misfortunes, unhappy lady, are writ in *Arifan's* breast with sorrow's keenest dart. Each rising and setting sun has seen her tears, and every night's dreary darkness can witness how many has been her restless thoughts and meditations, which way to assist her royal mistress.

Time and her indefatigable industry, has convinced her numbers of thy loyal subjects will venture all they esteem dear, to reinstate in thy wonted rights and dignities, thee and thine; if such a blessing be allotted to thy Nutrebiens, as that a son of thine and Jathrep's should be preserved.

Nor has she been less busy in her contrivances, how once more she may obtain the happiness to behold thy beauteous eyes, those bright lamps, whose powerful rays charm, delight, and awe each beholder.

With thy royal permission, in a few days thy faithful Arisan, hopes at thy feet more fully to inform thee of many things worthy thy knowledge.

I am, as soon as she had read this writing, said to Sinza; can it be possible that Arisan, of whom we have had such hard thoughts, should be faithful, and that neither her treacherous ungrateful husband, should have tainted her with his pernicious principles, nor the tyrant's power be able to awe or corrupt her virtue, but still that, that once loved friend, and pleasing companion, should be firm in her integrity and unshaken loyalty.

No, answered Sinza, it is not possible Guorbalem and Arisan know each other's sentiments too well to have acted aught of that

that importance, but with their joint knowledge, and tho' that subtle lady might have been ignorant of all her husband did against his sovereign, yet she and *Danredno* were too intimate for her not to be as deeply dipt in the black treasons as themselves; the queen interrupting her with a sigh, said, Cruel *Sinza*, what crowds of pleasing ideas have you in a moment destroyed, and in that short space, how did I indulge, and give way to imagination? All my faculties were preparing to receive the welcome guest, by which I am certain no joy, no delight, can equal the pleasure of finding a once loved friend sincere, after supposed treacheries, doubts, and jealousies of them. Continued the queen, How readily did my former fondness for *Arifan* help to plead and excuse those apparent proofs which you have but too justly observed. Much more discourse they had on the same subject; it being agreed between them that no answer should be sent back to her till the queen had seen *Papaglia*.

On the annual day he is with her at the exact hour; *Iram*, as they had resolved, mentions *Arifan's* letter; to which the fly answered, by saying, *Sinza* had judged perfectly right of that lady, he assuring the queen she was employed by *Maillan* and *Danredno*, the latter knowing what an ascendant she had had formerly on her easy

nature ; she is again, continued he, by them ordered to exert all her arts and insinuations to allure you to discover if really you ever had a son born, and where he is concealed, together with who were your *aids* and *assistants*, and are at present his *preserver*.

This lady said *Papaglia* is your imagined friend, which thy gentle nature is so inclined to wish, and believe sincere ; give me leave, pursued he, to tell you your very doubting her iniquitous disloyalty, shews how weakly you have in spite of all the severe lessons affliction should have taught you, guarded yourself against flattery, which you must be *conscious* lulled you and *Fathrep* to both your destructions, and by that means involved the land in a long scene of unutterable woes.

How often has this pernicious *Arisan* with a mind vacant to all that was great or virtuous, been puffed up with conceited *pride* at the success of her low cunning ; and so despicable she thought her glaring *flatteries*, it created in her no high ideas of your *wisdom* ; your many virtues by this one weakness lost their force, and the awe it ought to have impressed on such a groveling genius as her's ; to her gay *songs* and pleasing *chat*, your heart was open, and your secrets discovered to one who wanted a soul worthy such a trust.

While

While *Igehan's* firm virtue, and solid worth, was only honoured with your esteem, whole grandeur of mind scorned such mean arts; though, with the utmost submission, she reveres, nay, almost adored, the royal *Fathrep*, and yourself.

Ah, name her not, said the *queen*, a little heated at *Papaglia's* reproofs, she too is faulty as the faithless *Arisan*; for though many of her ancestors, for generations past, from the *Hazems* have received the highest honours, and her *father*, and *herself*, by us esteemed and favoured in the first rank of our friendship? Does she not now triumph over our misfortunes? Are not all our mighty favours forgot and wiped away with the distresses of our *house*? And tho' you would persuade us her great soul cannot bend to flatter, yet does she not now with sycophantic adulation, fawn and court the *usurper's* favour, by a pretended admiration, and an affected dotage on their youngest daughter *Gen Zanire*.

Here could *Papaglia's* thoughts like mortals been discovered, doubtless a smile had appeared in his countenance at *Iram's* mistaken displeasure for *Igehan's* excessive fondness, and great admiration of the *princess's Gen Zanire*, not but he assuming a very grave look, and said *Iram*, beware of *envy*, that cankered worm, which too often

has gnawed and defiled the fair fruit affliction would have produced, when the thoughts are turned inward on the soul, with resolution to *tear* out the thorns and weeds that choke and obstruct virtue's lovely fruit.

For if in prosperity, to attribute the pleasing *calm* to self-merit, with contempt and scorn on the less fortunate, is displeasing to heaven, curiously to scan and presumptuously reason, why the not *over wise* or *valiant*, nay, even the very *wicked*, are suffered to enjoy every wish and pleasure this world can yield, is still more offensive to supreme justice; then let no *envy* taint your *mind*, and cause you to lose the bright abode, which is hereafter prepared for your suffering virtues; nor let *Gen. Zanire's* blooming perfections be evilly looked on, because you *think* she is descended from *Maillan*. Nature in her person has formed a perfect beauty, nor will her *genius* be less excellent; wisdom, and every female *virtue*, will shine in her with peculiar lustre, she will be the delight and admiration of many great *nations*; enraptured *bards* to future ages will transmit her fame, instructing posterity to imitate her exalted worth, and by her example climb to virtue's most celestial height.

Ah, said *Ira n*, if I understand you right,
 this

this is the *severe* lesson that must teach me with more than humane patience, to strive to forget the mighty wrongs that have been done our *house*. But cease now this ungrateful theme, and say how we must act towards *Arifan*.

You must, replied *Papaglia*, talk to her in the stile you did to *Maillan's* ministers, and, though she mentions *schemes*, names *friends*, be not caught in her snare; tell her, you will have no honest subject's life hazarded yet in the cause; that myriads of swift moments must first roll on in the eternal chain, before ripening fate shall bless the *Nutrebians* with their *blooming hero*, which is ordained again to restore them to their former virtue and renowned honours, and crown them with *plenteous peace*. But till those happy moments arrive, they must submit to the *avenging rod*, and groan beneath the *galling yoke* their own treachery has loaden them with. *Papaglia* disappeared, leaving the *queen* to reflect on all he had said.

As the princess *Gen Zanire's* growing charms began to be the admiration of all that knew her, we shall traverse back to some particulars of her education by *Igeban*, more fully to acquaint the reader with the different characters of *her*, and her *supposed sister*.

*The History of the princesses Gen Zanira and
Gen Havagen.*

NO fond mother with greater raptures and delight, ever viewed the growing charms of an only darling child, than *Igeban* does *Gen Zanire*; with what transports does she observe the just proportion of her limbs, the perfect symmetry and sweetness of her features; how is she charmed with her lively spirit, and pretty, undescrivable, pleasing ways. *Maillan*, his lady, *Dan-redno*, and the whole court, take notice of her excessive fondness; for tho' the tyrant, and his lady, cannot help being pleased with the beauteous form of *Gen Zanire*, yet the unaccountable, peculiar fondness which often rules the mind in spite of reason, inclines this pair to a strange partiality for *Gen Havagen*, who was their daughter, and two years older than little *Gen Zanire*, her supposed sister.

Let none in their super-abundance of wisdom, despise or imagine this account of the princesses different tempers from their first infancy insignificant or trifling; if they would but reflect what habits of perverseness or complaisance, the child gets, according to the skill or management of the nurse; and though there are vast differences in the genius and tempers of mankind, yet upon nice inspection, they will find the latter spoiled or mended by those that have the
care

bare of them in their infant-state, as it hap-
 pened with *Gen Havagen*, who was suffered
 to have every thing she cried for: this
 soon taught her to roar, fight, or stamp,
 when opposed, which those about her would
 endeavour to cure, by commending the pa-
 tience and sweetness of her sister's temper;
 which turning her *anger* to *envy*, made her
 fly at her, scratch, and beat her: to have
 her *humour* is the first thing she employs
 her understanding about, and rather than
fail has recourse to little cunning and de-
 ceit, which her *parents* were so far from
 correcting, they think it wit and spirit in
 her, by which means the ill turn of her
 passions, deceit, malice, and every other
 vice, are daily increasing, without one in-
 struction, or notion of virtue to repel these
monsters; as she was left to do what she
 pleased, it was observed she took great
 pleasure in *tearing* the wings from flies, and
 the feathers from birds, laughing when she
 saw the latter *flutter* and rub themselves in
 the agony of their *smart*. Imagine to what
 a height that malice and envy must rise,
 that went unproved, when with *smiles* and
endearments she would kiss her *sister*, and
 at the same time, give her *secret* pinches
 and bites. As soon as she had the use of
 her tongue, it was employed in telling un-
 truths of her attendants and tutors, the last
 of which she had such an aversion to, that
 instead

instead of learning from them, she employed her wit to do them some mischief, which she found too often encouraged by her *parents* with a broad laugh. Quite the reverse was *Igeban's* conduct and care of *Gen Zanire*, when she saw a discontented resentment in her looks at *Gen Havagen* being more caressed and humoured than *herself*, she took care to suppress the growing evil, by describing it in the most hateful form that could suit her understanding, gave her a firmness of mind that could be ashamed of naught that was not a fault; and when the *princess* was vexed with her supposed sister's tricks, she made her ward the evil by such an exactness to *truth*, that in spite of partiality, all *Gen Zanire* said was believed; above all, while *Gen Havagen* was indulged in play, and idle unimproving amusements, she took care her very sports should have something towards her increase of learning, and caused her mind to take a turn that *way*, and grow fond to learn every thing that was *useful*.

In this state stood *Igeban* and *princess Gen Zanire*, when she was by her husband made acquainted with *Papaglia's* predictions; and tho' her really virtuous heart still retained some regard for him, it lessened not in the least her care of the *princess*.

She

She had often thought, and with *Emargb* had consulted, how to let the *queen* know of the child's being saved, but the alarm about the *son* being discovered by *Herbazele*, it made her determine to keep the secret close, till time should offer a fairer opportunity ; yet however kept back by her cautious fears, the following relation will shew how solicitous she was to make *Iram* acquainted with the mighty secret.

As soon as *Papaglia* was departed, the *queen* bid *Sinza* let the lady know who had from *Arisan* laid the writing at her feet, she had her permission to act as she pleased.

Twelve days were added to the many she had passed in her confinement, without hearing aught. On the 13th, the attending ladies acquainted her a royal barge with many others, were arrived at the castle, and that *Mai lan's* two daughters, *Arisan*, *Igeban*, and a numerous train of ladies were just entered the castle, that princess being come to see the curiosities of the *chappel*. Those who had seen the princesses land, even in *Iram's* presence, expressed their admiration of *Gen Zanire*, saying, they never saw any thing so lovely, so exquisitely charming as that young princess. The *queen* with even-temper hears them, till she was by the lady that *Arisan* had before employed, told the
subtle

subtle wife of *Guorbalem* waited for a private audience.

No loyal subject could have expressed greater or more transporting joy at the feet of their revered, their loved, and much-wronged monarch, than this lady did.

In her artful discourse, she talks of *schemes*, mentions to *Iram* several which formerly the *queen* knew, and had had a good opinion of, both as to their duty and virtue, proposes very probable methods how again to reinstate her and her's in their wonted rights and dignity, were they but to be assured and convinced a son of her and *Jathrep* could be produced to crown the work.

Iram with a sedate reserve heard all she had to say, and then repeating part of the same discourse she had with the three ministers, closed it with letting her understand she thought too many of her faithful subjects had suffered too severely by the tyrant's barbarity, and that *Maillan* had already polluted *Nodnou* with too much innocent blood for to desire aught might be attempted, till time, and the fulness of their other crimes, were ripened, to draw on *Maillan* the vengeance due to his enormous slaughters, and unutterable wickedness.

The confirmed manner with which she spoke, damps the haughty spirits of *Arisan* ;

Jan; at the same time she indulges the imagination that all *Iram* had said proceeded from a touch of frenzy, especially when she talked with such certainty, that her son was to restore the house of *Hazem*, and amply avenge on *Maillan*, and his disloyal subjects, their treachery.

Sinza, on this occasion, with an affected wildness, appeared earnestly to confirm all her mistress had said, and perhaps that lady had carried this conversation to too great a height, had she not while she was discoursing, observed at a private door, that from the *queen's* closet lead to her chappel, it moved backwards and forwards, and that something appeared fine and glittering behind it, which caused her to rise, and certainly to be satisfied, open the door, where the princess *Gen Zanira* is presented to her full view, by *Igeban* that day set out with the utmost magnificence of dress, befitting her high rank and *blooming years*; struck with wonder at the pleasing form of the young princess, she cried out, *This must be some celestial visitor; for nothing mortal I ever saw half so fair, half so lovely.*

The princess, who with uncontrolled freedom, used to rove through the royal apartments, entered, and approached to *Iram's* sofa, who observing her with the
utmost

utmost attention, remained silent ; Gen *Zanira* unused to so dumb a reception, looking a little confused, goes to *Arisan*, and in a low voice, said, *I am afraid I have offended that lady, by venturing in.*

The queen, who heard what the princess said, tho' perplexed between her strong hate to *Mailan*, and the beauty and engaging sweetness of Gen *Zanira*, answered, *No, tho' I suppose this is the usurper's daughter, I cannot but own, in spite of all our outrageous wrongs, there is something in that child's form and manner, that must create love and admiration in all that see her.* No sooner had the princess heard what *Iram* said, but, running to her, she embraces her knees, telling her she would love her dearly ; for, said she, *Often in Igeban's cloaths I have kissed your and your royal spouses images, where you both looked with such sweetness, I could not help fancying you loved me.* *Igeban*, who had followed Gen *Zanira*, and at the door heard *Iram's* and the princess's last words, entered, and threw herself at the queen's feet, which she bathes with her fast-flowing tears.

For *Igeban*, who had waited, as we have said, for an opportunity to reveal to *Iram* the secret of the princess Gen *Zanira* being her child, had flattered herself, that in the company of *Arisan*, she should prevent

Dan-

Dared not from having the least suspicion of her design ; and having been told of the private stairs that led from the *queen's* closet to the chappel, after the two princesses and company that attended them had viewed the chappel, and went to see the rest of the castle, she remained with *Gen Zairra*, whom she sent before to see how the *queen* would receive her.

But how were all her hopes dashed by *Arifan* saying, *I see the wise, the cautious Igeban, and I have had the same loyal designs tho' we did not acquaint each other with our intentions.*

Not the voice of thunder, nor even the earth opening, and making a dreadful chasm between her and the *queen*, could have frightened her worse than at that time did *Arifan's* voice, she having been too intent at *Iram's* feet, to see, or imagine aught of her, till she spoke.

This surprizing disappointment caused her to remain in a long silence ; but when she had a little recollected, she said, *Alas, Arifan, the hapless Igeban has no power, no earthly means, to serve our royal mistress, and can only in unavailing tears, bewail her adverse fate.*

Iram raised, and tenderly embraced her ; she and *Arifan* were placed at the feet of the *queen*.

When

When the deceitful wife of *Guorbalem*, with her wonted insinuations, said, *Igeban* and I thus seated, brings to my remembrance, the happy hours we have thus passed with our royal *mistress*; how sweet a majesty, and transporting goodness, diffusing a blessing on your people; virtue in you shone with *peculiar* lustre, the *graces* attend your every motion; how gay, and yet how decently refined was the wit and humour of the circle! yes, answered *Sinza*, the *sciences* and *muses* had their *balcon* days, the valiant, learned, and wise, were then in esteem; the generous *Jathrep's* care was how to make his subjects happy, rich, and wise; his great soul, conscious how justly he deserved their love and duty, wanted the suspicion that should have guarded against those *dark traitors* that betrayed him; and continued the satyrical *Sinza*, looking fully on *Arifan*, what have they gained by the change, but to be treated like *slaves*; now with grov'ling fawn they ask those in waiting, If *Maillan* is in temper? On the least motion of his arm, they dread the sceptre should be halled at them: has not his turvid brow, and hoarse voice, made the most haughty tremble; and which of all those that help to raise this *idol* has not had his peace racked, and his rest broken with apprehensions, that the next rising sun they

they may receive from him a present of the
 * *Poufe*, as a just reward for their treachery
 to *Falbrep*.

This discourse of *Sinza* caused *Arisan* to blush, perceiving she was no stranger to either *Maillan* or his courtiers behaviour, when they were interrupted by *Gen Zanira*, whose active spirit, usual in persons of her age, having spied *Iram's* musick, began to play on it. The queen, who was a great mistress of that art, is surprized to hear with what skill she touched the instrument ; upon which *Igeban* desires the queen to hear her sing ; the sweetness of her voice and manner, for one so young, exceeded imagination ; for *Igeban*, besides her natural genius, had taken care to make her very play and amusements instructive, prevailing on her, with great diligence, to apply herself to every art or science that tended to her improvement, or the adorning her mind. The queen found herself so pleased with the princess, she imagines it is owing to *Papaglia's* instructions, and that she had gained a perfect power over herself, especially in subduing her rancorous hate and envy to *Maillan*.

But *Sinza* whose senses were delighted with the princess's inimitable perfections, in rapture cried out, *This is sure another Iram in miniature* ; which caused *Igeban* inly to tremble,

* An Indian poison.

tremble, she having often thought she discerned so exact a resemblance, that she wonders how the *dull* courtiers, who had seen the *queen* in her early bloom, had never taken the least notice of it, and attributes it to a providential stupidity.

Her fright was increased when she saw *Sinza* earnestly view her hands as she played on the *musick*, lest she should discover the *mark* on her arm, tho' she kept it always covered with bracelets, pretending she thought it a blemish she wished might be concealed.

Gen Havagen sending to let the ladies know she wanted to return to the palace, *Arisan* and *Igeban* take their leave of the *queen*; the wife of *Guorbalem* as they were in the barge together, desired *Igeban* not to acquaint *Danredno* with their having seen the *queen*, which request *Ige'an* was very willing to comply with, being sensible by this pretended secrecy of *Arisan*, she should escape being insulted with his ill natured reproaches for her unchangeable loyalty and affection to her royal mistress.



B O O K XII,

FROM the time *Hetbazele* had discovered to the governor of the castle, the *queen's* being delivered of a son, he, by the permission of *Maillan*, obtained leave to pursue his addresses to her; and she also having obtained the *queen's* consent to a marriage with him; both *Iram* and *Maillan* had their several views in this union; the *usurper* believing thereby he should have a proper spy on the *queen*, and be acquainted with each thought, and the inmost recesses of her soul: On the other side, *Hetbazele*, proving faithful to her *distressed mistress*, acts with such discretion as to be serviceable to her, without causing the tyrant to have the least suspicion of her.

But tho' *Hetbazele* was married to the governor, she still attended on the *queen*. The bounds of her liberty were only from her husband's apartment (which was in the castle) to that of *Iram's*; *Maillan's* ministers frequently visiting the governor, *Nipblodoge* discerning on many occasions, her reserved and cautious conduct to her husband, trusted her with messages to *Iram*, of which

which the governor had not the least knowledge.

Full ten months were passed, the *queen* not hearing the least word from *Arifan*, when *Hetbazele* entered her chamber, and told her the court, and *Nodnou* were in a strange alarm, occasioned by an express from *Egypt*, which brought news that the *caliph* had published a manifesto, in which he declared he had received by the hands of *Roorbat*, letters from queen *Iram*, wherein she requests and besought his assistance to help the son of *Jathrep*, born of her in the castle of *Simeth*, (where she was still confined a prisoner) to the throne of his ancestors, whom if the *caliph's* compassion would aid, *Roorbat* was to fetch their young king from *Arabia*, he being intrusted with the place of his concealment; and that the *caliph*, in compliance with her request, had already proclaimed war against *Maillan*, and all the nations of the *Nutrebians* who had or should adhere to the usurper, or should oppose the restoring of their young monarch. *Hetbazele* farther added, that *Maillan's* council had that morning sent for her husband, and chid him for his neglect, in suffering the captive *queen* to have her emissaries, and be so busy about state affairs, and that on his solemn protestations, he had guarded her with such strictness,

ness, that it was impossible for any human person to have the least correspondence with her, *Danredno* had mitigated *Maillan's* wrath, so as to permit him to continue his post.

Hetbazele also further added, that *Nipblodoge's* visit that morning was to enquire of the queen if *Roarbin* by her orders had acted with the *caliph* in this affair. That lady being in great astonishment at such an enquiry, well knowing *Ruarbat* had no such instructions or letters from her; nevertheless, she ordered *Hetbazele* to declare the truth to *Nipblodoge*, with her resolution to determine nothing till she had seen *Papaglia*.

At the appointed time he appeared, and being well acquainted with all she had to advise with him about, assures her, the royal youth, the son of *Jathrep*, was safely secured from the artifices of that false court. And, added he, to convince you what surprizing *politicians* you have to struggle with, know, this alarm is owing to the *caliph* of *Egypt's* having intimated to *Maillan*, unless he delivered up the strong town of *Samber* (which the royal *Jathrep's* ancestors in former days had won from the *Egyptians*, he would invade his *Sangrian* dominions.

Maillan and his *ministers*, conscious of

their own weakness, and the *caliph's* increasing power, by the additional strength of a hundred thousand valiant *Nutrebians*, whose loyalty to their late sovereign had made them exiles, determined in this strait to deliver up *Samber*, rather than part with one inch of the *Sangrian* dominions ; yet knowing how odious it will make him to the people, who with reason dread and hate the growing greatness of that populous nation ; and on the contrary, set the highest value on that important place *Samber* ; to avoid both which evils, he, and his ministers formed the following treacherous scheme.

Maillan, by his spies, who were numerous, was assured, that ever since the rack-
ing the *midwife*, and *Iram's* discourse with his ministers had been by whisper made publick in the *kingdom*, the people appeared in general inclined to hope and wish the children of *Fathrep* might be preserved ; and added *Papaglia*, that *once-loved friend* *Arisan* was sent on purpose to discover, if possible, where *your son* is concealed, and has since prevailed on *Roarbin*, by her insinuations, arts, and bribes, to pretend to produce him ; this will cause many *Nutrebians* to enter into the *caliph's* service. *Guorballem* and *Danredno*, who only are in the secret, are to let in some of *Fathrep's* party
(by

(by pretended treason) who, when they have got possession, will be obliged to give it up to the *caliph* : by this means the *caliph*, becoming master of the city, the odium of the people will be thrown on *Jathrep's* friends, who thus ensnared, are to smart by his cruel wrath, or exiled into *Egypt*, end their days.

Ah, said the *queen*, is each returning sun to increase my miseries, with new and horrid scenes of *blood* and strange sorts of *cruelties* ? But say, pursued she to *Papaglid*, instruct and help me by more than mortal skill, to save these too honest *Nutrebians*. *Papaglia* replied, As *Niphlodoge* is a stranger to their treacherous designs, it being a tryal and snare for him equal with the rest. let *Helbazele* inform him of every particular I have acquainted you with, that thereby he may be enabled to escape the snare himself, and as far as is consistent with his own safety, to prevent those who have an opinion of his cautious wisdom, from falling into that *dilemma* ; by this means many will be preserved to assist and act in the glorious cause, when the real *Almazandor* shall appear to crown the work.

After they had fully discoursed on this affair, the *queen* desired he would (till his sixty minutes were expired) proceed in his story, which he does as follows :

*The Count de L——'s History
continued.*

AS madam *la Rotulou* desired, I constrained myself to say *some* civil things to her, which had such an unhappy effect, that she grew tiresomely fond. My mother and her maids having formerly buoyed her up with the hopes of being the countess de L——, my little complaisance causing her to believe she was soon to arrive at that happiness, and I finding I had drawn a plague on myself, I was not like easily to get rid of, often made pretence to pick quarrels ; but in spite of my ill treatment, she still found some silly pretence to be hovering about me.

One day, intending to be in *a cross humour*, to vex her, and divert ourselves, madame *la Rotulou* and I had set down several arbitrary rules, relating to the submission and obedient regards I should expect from my *wife* ; the paper lying on the table when my *taylor* came to fit on some clothes, the man being a person whose *droll* and *humour* often pleased his customers, is prodigiously taken with my *rules*, and begs I would let him have them to try some practices on his *wife* ; this was readily

dily granted, as being like to produce some diverting mischief. And that we might lose no part of it, my *valet* was ordered to invite himself to dinner with the taylor, who was rich, and in a plentiful way.

But tho' he could be the drolling *buffoon* to please the gentlemen that employed him, yet when he was amongst his own sort of people, he was a great imitator of the *gay*, the *frollick*, or the *baughty* airs he had last observed practised in his *Customers*, though it was agreed on all hands, that he liked the superb best, with a little more roughness than is generally used by the gentleman.

As soon as he and the *valet* entered his house, his wife, who had been *busy* in family affairs, and the care of her *children*, and by nature not of the neatest order, is reproved for appearing before him in such a dress, which she answers with excuses of being sorry to be caught by the gentleman in such a way ; he putting himself into a stern and frowning posture, told her, tho' he was ashamed of her being seen in so indecent a manner before his friend, yet for the future, if she did not take care to treat him with more regard than thus to offend his *eyes* and *nose* with such objects, he should make her sensible of further *marks* of his resentment. The wife who had too much
fire

fire and salt in her composition to be turned into a *Grisalinda*, answered, She did not question, but if he dared, he would be as *flippant* with his blows to her as he was to his *'prentices* ; and, quite mad with his airs about *smell*, added, as to the nicety of his *nose*, You know I am naturally as *sweet* as any woman in the city, which, pursued she, not all the water in the ocean can make you. See, said he to the valet, at the same time pointing to her with a deriding smile, the malice of that female *animal*, who knows that from my every *pore* evacuates perfumes and odoriferous sweets.

The *valet*, who was as mischievous as any arch brother of the fraternity, with great seriousness, said, he believed he had hit the *thing*, or more properly to express myself, the very *essence* that makes all the ladies so *fond* of you ; for, added he, (still continuing his grave look,) how many handsome fellows are there, that are continually fluttering about the fair sex, like flies in an autumn sun-shiny day, who are as little regarded, without it be like those insects, for their troublesomeness ; while you, said he to the taylor, who are not esteemed of the order of beauties, are the darling of the sex ; for, but this morning I heard mademoiselle *Moline* tell the *count my master*, who did not seem over-pleased with her, you were
so

so agreeable, she wished you had been *born a gentleman*. Tho' he only said this to increase the poor woman's anger, it happened to carry with it a double edge; for the taylor's vanity about women's liking him, had been stretched to the utmost extent before; his *humour* and *droll* had caused all the laughing romping girls to be fond of him; and this speech about madame *Moline* worked on his empty folly to that excess, that he began to rave and curse his hard fate, that had chained him to that *odious* thing a *wife*: at the same time she laughs, and exposes his follies, nor does she spare mademoiselle *Moline*; at which he frowned and stamped, bidding her not dare to pronounce that *sweet name* with her wide open mouth; then pulling out of his pocket my *rules* concerning a *wife's behaviour*, he began to read them to her, but she snatching them from him, run away with them.

No sooner had she read them, but she returns in ten times a greater rage, and tearing my matrimonial directions into a thousand pieces, bids my valet tell his *master* his conduct had made him the scorn and jest of all mankind, not but, continued she, I know this, (meaning the *rules*) is a piece of *anti-quoted madam de Rotulou's wit*, who had employed it much better in contriving how to pay my husband for her *servants liveries*,
 than

than preventing his duns, by *now* and *then* helping him to the custom of a foolish *esquire* ; and with all her wit, had she had the sense to have minded the oeconomy of her family, she might have lived in *honour* and *reputation*, as other virtuous wives do, without being forced by her *time-blasted charms* to spread her nets to catch young *callow birds*, and to conceal her follies by dangling young *girls* about with her, no one but the *child* herself being such a fool as to believe the *count* had any regard for that *empty* vain creature mademoiselle de *Moline*.

In short, the quarrel rose to such a height, the *taylor*, to remain master of the field, was forced to make use of the superiority of his strength, and catching hold of her by the neck, almost strangled her ; in that condition he left her sprawling on the floor, and with the valet he came to madame de *Rotolou*, to whom they related all that had happened.

That lady was mistress of a very large stock of *cool malice*, and could smile the moment she gave the stab.

I was present when they both came in, full of what had passed ; and she was so far from shewing any resentment at the wife's spiteful reflections, she did not seem to mind them, blamed the *taylor* for teaz-
ing

ing her to that degree, putting him in mind, his, and her friends would be alarmed at his using her so roughly. But the *man* and myself finding great fault with her *passion*, she said it was her opinion, intirely to cure her from being guilty of the like hereafter, he ought rather to apply *corrosives* than *cordials*. After she had with a pleasant air looked on me, and said, she believed *we must assist Mr. Taylor in this affair*; she told him should he shew any uneasiness, or express the least concern for what he had done, it would but increase his wife's *insolence*. She asked the taylor who of them was present, or heard the quarrel between him and his wife? he answered, None but a servant-maid, who was intirely at his devotion; and understanding the *valet* had picked up the torn papers of the *matrimonial rules*, she advised him when he went home (after he had given the maid proper instructions) to seem a perfect stranger to her discourses or reproaches, which doubtless, continued madame *la Rotulou*, you will have in abundance, and to his or her acquaintance and friends to feign a surprize and concern, as if he thought his wife either taken with a light-headed illness, or else was run quite distracted.

Here *Iram*, interrupting *Papaglia*, said, If I mistake not, in the description that is
given

given of the *furies* of the lower region, is to create in our souls a thorough detestation and horror of them, who, in the midst of their exquisite torments, are said to have an envious pleasure at the miseries of mortals; and sure, added the *queen*, if either you, or that lady you mention had ever had one *human* or *virtuous idea*, you must have reflected how cruel, how barbarous it must be, to disunite the affections of those bound in the bands of sacred wedlock, which nothing but death, that dissolves our very being, can make a separation between.

To this antiquated moralizing of the *queen*, *Papaglia* answered, it was a polite humour then extremely taking amongst the *gay wits* to ridicule the marriage state, assuring her that witty satyrical volumes have every age since, been writ on that subject, which has had such an effect on all the well-bred and genteel, they never have the least notion of *love*, or *affection*, in the marriage-state.

The *queen* still appearing more surprized, said, *This is very strange, and makes me no way able to comprehend the genius of the Europeans; love, ambition, covetousness, and revenge, have amongst us caused many wicked and impious crimes; but what passion, what darling appetite, can excite your people thus to pervert and destroy the*
greatest

greatest blessing heaven has bestowed on mortals ; for if any thing can create in us an idea of the exalted bliss of the future state, it must be the friendship between two lovers in the marriage state.

I believe, said Papaglia, when I was a mortal I might hear grave elderly people talk in this stile, yet it became a custom, in imitation of the wits, and most husbands and wives had learned to treat each other with so satyrical a contempt, they changed it from that celestial happiness you would imagine, to one more fit for the lower regions.

But to proceed, continued he, in my story ; the *taylor* instructed by madame de Rotulou, when he returned home, finding friends and neighbours at his house, (after he had spoke to the maid to pretend she knew nothing of the quarrel) seem so perfectly ignorant of all she charges him with, he desires my *valet* might be sent for, who accordingly went, and with as much assurance as the *taylor*, appears to be very much surprized when she repeats the *marriage rules*, his telling how mademoiselle Moline's admiring her husband, with his airs on it. This had like to have made the woman mad indeed, who while she is telling and repeating each particular, they affect ignorance and surprize, with a serious

rious air of concern, as if they believed her quite distracted.

It was by them carred to such extremes, that doctors were sent for, and had ordered her to be shaved, blooded, and blistered ; her struggles and resistances but more inclining them to believe her husband and the valet, when the person who was employed to undress her, saw fall from her bosom two or three bits of paper, which being looked into by a friend of hers that was there, and proving to be some part of the *marriage rules*, this so shamed the *taylor*, that he failed at that time of breaking her spirit, according to madame de *Rotolou's* directions.

This piece of folly occasioned a great deal of talk, no ways to madame *le Rotulou's* or my advantage ; the wife and her friends spread it about the whole city, and mademoiselle's *aunt*, who had the guardianship of that young lady, was soon made to understand all my complisance to *her niece*, was to conceal from the world and her husband, my amour with madame *le Rotulou*.

Moline's aunt, who for some time had suspected the truth of this adventure, forbid her niece to receive or return any of madame *le Rotulou's* visits ; and at the same time told her she would not hinder her from
receiving

receiving my visits, which, if I had any regard for her, was full encouragement; this *Moline* soon took care to have me made acquainted with; but I having no design, nor thought that way, never gave myself the trouble to make her *one* visit. But as I have said, the *child* having taken a fancy to be very fond of me, let not a day pass but I had either messages, or *billet deux*, from her, which sometimes were answered a little civil, but oftener quite the reverse.

At first perceiving none of her advances had the desired effect, she sent me a letter crammed full of upbraidings; calls me *false*, *base*, and *perjured*, with all the crimes with which love-sick virgins charge the ungrateful, the slighting, and the neglectful *swain*; and concluded with desiring my positive answer, whether she might hope or expect I would be so honourable, or just, as to make her my *wife*; to which I sent her answer in a few words, that nothing on earth ever was, or ever would be farther distant from my thoughts and intentions, than to make her the countess *de L* —.

From her infancy all about her having flattered, and indeed inspired her with an inclination for me, which my unlucky complaisance of late had increased to such a degree, that in receiving this absolute *refusal*, no rage, despair, or grief, could exceed

hers ; she tore her hair, and even beat and bruised herself.

Her maid, who in this affair had been her chief *confidante*, and to gain some trifling presents from her, had helped to feed her with vain hopes, and now to give a turn to the violence of her passion, acquaints her the *taylor* had brought home a habit to fit on, and that perhaps he might be sent by the count *de L—*, to see how she would take his cruel letter.

In this state of mind he was introduced to her, and the *freedoms* we had allowed him at madame *Rotulou's*, caused him, who did not want assurance, together with the notions the *valet* had put into his head, he made her abundance of compliments while he was trying on the habit ; and she, whose soul was full of my unkind letter, soon began a discourse about me ; but that the *taylor* might not imagine it *love*, she conceals the violence of her *grief*, by extravagant rants of her *anger*, with how much she resented the affronts ; adding, what great favours the person might expect from her, that would revenge her, by stabbing the count *de L—* to the heart.

The *taylor*, who had learned from the chattering of our servants, how ill I had used her, and his vanity making him think this discourse was addressed to him, and
that

that she was really in earnest, tells her she needs but seriously to give the word of command, and it should be done.

Thus flattered, and giving a loose to her rage, with several protestations she assured him, she should know no rest nor happiness till her revenge was fully *satiated* by my death.

In this humour, after her folly had let him kiss her hand, on his assurance the next news she should hear would be, that he had sent the count *de L*—— to answer for every *wrong* and *insult* he had done her; He took his leave, and coming to my *valet*, told him all that had passed between them, with a design he said he had with his assistance to make mademoiselle *Moline* believe he had really killed me.

For this arrogant mechanick had, it seems, ever since the time my *valet* had, to vex his *wife*, mentioned *Meline's* liking him, had filled his head with strange notions; and to prevail on the *valet* to join, and assist, tells him, by this means he hopes to get possession of her *person*, and by consequence hereafter her *estate*: he, as all such sort of *wretches* do, on the like occasions, promises him he should share in the gains.

And then acquainting him with his design, which was, when it should happen

that I went out of town, or was to be concealed at madame *de Rotulou's*, the *valet* should go to *Moline* to enquire for me ; pretend I was missing, and he was afraid some mischief had befallen me ; that then he would immediately after write to her, to let her understand she had been obeyed ; and for important reasons he must see her that moment ; the *taylor* adding, if she came (as most likely in her fright she would) she was his own, and their business was done.

I cannot say what motive inclined my *valet* to acquaint me with this *base project* of the *taylor's*, and own, continued *Papaglia*, I was extremely struck at the extravagant daring of the fellows, as well as the folly and malicious spirit of *Moline*, I made madame *Rotulou* acquainted with it, who always pretended to be of my opinion, and afterwards artfully wrought me up to her own designs ; as on this occasion I was for having the fellow seized and chastised, but she, after we had canvassed the matter, said, it would be a severer punishment to *both*, and at the same time less expose *them*, for me to pretend to go out of town for three or four days, and my *valet* to act as the *taylor* had proposed, which was accordingly done.

Yielding myself to madame *de Rotulou's* whims,

whims, three days I passed in her apartment without being seen, while my *valet* pretended to make great inquiry for me at mademoiselle *Moline's*; on his coming a second time, she ordered her maid to bring him to her chamber, to speak with him on his feigned story, and pretended fears that some mischief had befallen me; she was extremely shocked, turned pale, and was in such confusion, her voice trembling, so she could hardly utter a word: he had not long left her before she had a note from the *taylor*, wherein he lets her understand, she had been obeyed, and he must see her immediately. As he had taken care it should be secretly delivered to her, she, extremely frightened, goes to him where he had appointed to meet her: by my *valet's* management, madame de *Rotolou* and I were placed in an inner room, where we could hear and see all that should pass between them; and oh, continued he, with a groan, I wish all maids of distinction, whose unexperienced follies, and too often vicious natures, lead them fondly to trust their servants and inferiors with such unwarrantable actions, as they dare not let be exposed to the world, would from this story reflect when they descend to make them partners in any dark or criminal design, they lose the dignity of their high station, birth, and the

the power of their riches, becoming greater slaves to them than they would be to their friends, or even the censuring world, if their faults were revealed.

For the trembling *Moline* at the *taylor's* bidding comes, and almost bereft of sense, looking wildly round, enquires if the count *de L* — is safe; adding, she hoped he had not attempted to do him any mischief, on which the *taylor* affects very angry airs, and in a haughty strain asks her, if it was not her request, desire, nay command, that he should kill the count *de L* — —? adding, tho' he must own it was her charms inspired him to so furious a revenge, yet now he saw her design, he was resolved not to suffer the *justice* of the law alone; and so artfully did he act his part, he really possessed her with the opinion he had murdered me.

Poor *Moline's* grief and horror is not to be described; whatever her anger and revenge might cause her to have said to the *taylor* to have encouraged his design, his threats to discover her as the person that set him on, made her offer him large sums of gold to keep the secret, at the same moment she deplores my death, saying, *Cruel as I was, she had rather run on pointed spears than hurt the least particle of me.* This the fellow pretending to be very much out of humour

humour at, soon let her understand, her forfeited virtue was the only bribe should silence him, as he told her nothing but the love of her could have caused him to have destroyed me.

In short, with such a daring he worked on her fears, and insolently pressed to such freedoms, that she was on the point of ruin, when madame de Rotulou and I entered to them; in a rage I bid him go home to the honest *shrew* his wife, and no more entertain a thought of such presumptuous wickedness, lest I should make him a publick example, letting him understand he then was spared in pity to *Moline*, whose *childish follies* I did not intend to punish at so severe a price as that of ruining her reputation; at the same time bowing to her with a scornful smile, said, *Madam, I cannot well tell which most to applaud, the well-managed design of your revenge, or the choice of your champion; tho' I must own you have not appeared inclined to reward his pretended services, equal to his amorous expectations.*

The joy that appeared in her looks on seeing me enter, (by which means her terrors about my fancied *death* were dissipated) soon were clouded with shame and confusion, to find herself so unhappily exposed; and looking at me with a desperate wildness in
her

her eyes, she said, (at the same moment she quitted the room,) *The lost Moline's follies shall never, never more be the subject of count de Rotolou's irony.*

I afterwards was informed she went directly home, and without mentioning what had happened, complaining she was extremely ill, she bid her chambermaid ask her *guy* for the key of the closet where she kept her cordials, into which she went, and stayed so long, it alarmed the family; the door being locked, after repeated rappings and callings to her, they broke it open, and she lying on the floor, was found dead. The physicians, when called, attributed it to the vast quantity, and strength, of the cordials she had drank.

The next day when this news was brought to madame de Rotolou's, I own I was extremely shocked; then all her artless fondness, with the weak pretences and frivolous excuses, by which she was continually endeavouring to disguise the excess of her love, now appeared to me in another light; and tho' I might be justly incensed against her for her romantic airs of revenge on which she employed the *taylor*, yet when I reflected in how tender and severe a part I had provoked her, I was conscious my ill natured folly, and *ridiculous whims* had been the sole ruin of poor *Moline*.

End of the FIRST VOLUME.



